

Blessing for Those Who Have Had or Aided An Abortion:

Rabbi Stephanie Crawley (Rosh Hashanah 5783 at Temple Micah, Washington DC)

Mi Sheiberach Imoteinu -God of our Mothers -

Bless these brave ones
Who stand before you

Be with them now- as you were with our mothers

God of Sarah,

Who aided her to have a child when she wanted it -because she wanted it

Be with them now

God of Rachel

Who suffered and suffered for a child and then died while giving birth -
Ensure that no one is forced into that same reality

Be with them now

God of Dinah -

Do not abandon us when we have had our bodies stolen from us through violence
and subjugation

Be with them now

God of Yocheved - the mother of Moses

Help us all maintain the ability to bring children into the world only when we want
to -Only when we've decided that the world is right

Be with them now

God of Hannah,

Who thought she only had worth because of her womb
Teach us all to see our value in our wholeness

Be with them now

Bless their holy bodies

And Bless their decisions -

The ones they had the ability to make
The ones that they fought to make possible
The ones that stood against immoral legislation
And the ones made in the embrace of freedom

May they always know agency and dignity and love

May this community never fail to rise in support

--

And Be with those who stand beside them in courage -

Who lend their voices and their funds
Who drive to clinics and accompany them inside
Who shout over protesters
Who ensure care and safety

Be with them now

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And be with us all, now

Give us the strength to fight back and continue supporting women
Help us create systems of justice that serve *every* person
That center the souls that belong to bodies that others seek to ban

In this new year, help us build a new, just world

A world birthed of freedom and care.