



## עת צרה היא ליעקב וממנה יושע

### Orthodox Union and Rabbinical Council of America join call for Day of Prayer - This Thursday, 8 Shevat, January 21

Our Sages have guided us to respond to threats in two manners - by turning to HaShem in prayer and by undertaking the appropriate and responsible pragmatic efforts.

The pandemic continues to rage throughout the world and within our communities. Especially in light of the new virus variants, public health guidance dictates continued conscientious mask-wearing and social distancing, and vaccination as soon as possible. These mitigation efforts are a clear Halachic responsibility, fulfilling the value of *pikuach nefesh* - concerning ourselves with doing all we can to preserve and protect our lives and the lives of those around us.

In addition to these practical efforts of mitigation, we as Jews must always engage in *tefillah*, praying to G-d consistently and sincerely, both privately and publicly.

In that spirit, we join the call issued today by Chief Rabbi David Lau – issued in consultation with Hagaon Rav Chaim Kanievsky – for a national day of *tefillah* this Thursday, 8 Shevat, January 21. Individuals and shuls should make efforts to intensify their *tefillot* and to add appropriate prayers and *Tehillim*, including specifically Psalms 13, 20, 121, 130, 142.

We hope and pray that our prayers will be answered and our efforts crowned with success, bringing an end to this pandemic and healing and restoration to all those who have experienced loss, illness and struggle.