Welcoming Song or Niggun

How good and how pleasant, to sit all together
Hiney mah tov umah na'im - Shevet akhim gam yakhad

Optional: Light Candles

Blessed are you, G-d, Sovereign of the Universe, who has sanctified us with mitzvot and commands us to light shabbat candles
Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha'olam asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav vitzivanu lehadlik ner shel shabbat.

L'cha Dodi

Let us go, my beloved to meet the bride, and let us welcome the presence of Shabbat.
L'chah dodi likrat kolah, p'nei shabat n'kab'lah.

Observe and recall in a single utterance. We were made to hear by the unified G-d. G-d is one and G-d's Name is one. In fame and splendor and praiseful song.
Shamor v'zachor b'dibur echad, hishmi-anu eil ham'yuchad, Adonai echad ush'mo echad, l'sheim ul'tiferet v'lithilah.

To greet Shabbat let's go, let's travel. For she is the wellspring of blessing. From the start, from ancient times she was chosen. Last made, but first planned.
Likrat shabat l'chu v'nell'chah, ki hi m'kor hab'rachah, meirosh mikedem n'suchah, sof ma-aseh b'machashavah t'chilah.

Sanctuary of the king, royal city. Arise! Leave from the midst of the turmoil. Long enough have you sat in the valley of tears. And G-d will take great pity upon you compassionately.
Mikdash melech ir m'luchah, kumi tz'i mitoch hahafeichah, rav lach shevet b'eimek habacha, v'hu yachamol alayich chemlah.

This is a basic sketch for leading Shabbat evening services. Add, take out, and change things as is fitting for your community. There are supplementary readings at the end.
Shalom
Supreme messengers jubilation beloved happily Perez burst rejoice spoil Your shall find Do up Rouse Jesse’s son of Bethlehem. splendor, my people. By the hand of Jesse’s son of Bethlehem. Redemption draws near to my soul.

Rouse yourselves! Rouse yourselves! Your light is coming, rise up and shine. Awaken! Awaken! utter a song. The glory of Adonai is revealed upon you.

Do not be embarrassed! Do not be ashamed! Why be downcast? Why groan? All my afflicted people will find refuge within you. And the city shall be rebuilt on her hill.

Your despoilers will become your spoil. Far away shall be any who would devour you. Your G-d will rejoice concerning you. As a groom rejoices over a bride.

To your right and your left you will burst forth. And Adonai will you revere. By the hand of a child of Perez. We will rejoice and sing happily.

Come in peace, crown of her beloved. Both in happiness and in jubilation. Amidst the faithful of the treasured nation. Come O Bride!

Shalom Aleichem

Peace upon you, ministering angels, Shalom alechem malache ha-messengers of the Most High, of the Supreme Ruler of Rulers, the Holy Blessed One.
Come in peace, messengers of peace, messengers of the Most High, of the Supreme Ruler of Rulers, the Holy Blessed One.

Bless me with peace, messengers of peace, messengers of the Most High, of the Supreme Ruler of Rulers, the Holy Blessed One.

May your departure be in peace, messengers of peace, messengers of the Most High, of the Supreme Ruler of Rulers, the Holy Blessed One.

Bo'achem le-shalom malache hashalom malache elyon, mi-melech malche ha-melachim Ha-Kadosh Baruch Hu.

Barchuni le-shalom malache hashalom malache elyon, mi-melech malche ha-melachim Ha-Kadosh Baruch Hu.

Tzet'chem le-shalom malache hashalom malache elyon, mi-melech malche ha-melachim Ha-Kadosh Baruch Hu.

Three of Cups (an excerpt), by Marge Piercy

Taste what is in your mouth, if it is water, still taste it.
Wash out the cups of your fingers, ...clean your eyes with new tears for your sister.
We are not worse revolutionaries if we remember that the universe itself pulses like a heart; that the blood dances within us; that joy is a power treading with hoofs and talons on our flimsy bodies; that water flows and fire leaps and the land gives strength if you build on it with respect, if you dance on it with vigor, if you put seeds in it with care and give back what is left over; that a ritual of unity makes some of what it pretends; that every things is part of something else.
Barchu

leader: Blessed are You to whom praise is due!

everyone: Blessed are You to whom praise is due forever and ever.

Shema & Its Blessings

Endless is Your love for Your people Israel. You have taught us Torah and its mitzvot, laws and judgement. Therefore, O G-d, when we lie down and when we rise up we shall speak of Your commandments and rejoice in Your Torah and mitzvot forever. Day and night we will reflect on them. They are our life and the length of our days. Your love shall never depart from our hearts.

Blessed are You, Eternal G-d who loves Your people Israel.

Hear, Israel, Adonai is our G-d, Adonai is one.
You shall love Adonai your G-d with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might. Take to heart these instructions, which I charge you this day. Impress them upon your children. Recite them when you stay at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them serve as a symbol on your forehead; inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.


Sh’ma Yisreal Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad
The Lord said to Moses as follows:

Speak to the Israelite people and instruct them to make for themselves fringes on the corners of their garments throughout the ages; let them attach a cord of blue to the fringe at each corner. That shall be your fringe; look at it and recall all the commandments of the Lord and observe them, so that you do not follow your heart and eyes in your lustful urge. Thus you shall be reminded to observe all My commandments and to be holy to your G-d. I the Lord am your G-d, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your G-d: I, the Lord am your G-d.

Who is like You, among the gods, Adonai? Who is like You, awesome and doing wonders? Your children saw your majesty, splitting the sea before Moses. “This is our G-d,” they cried, “Adonai will reign through all space and time!” And it is said:

Adonai has saved the people of Jacob, and redeems the weak from the mighty. Blessed are You, Adonai, who redeems Israel.


Moshe uv’nai yisrael l’kha anu shira b’simhah rabah v’amru khulam


ייאמר אַנִי אֱלֹהִים לָכֶם: כִּי אַתָּה יְהוָה יִשְׂרָאֵל וּבְנֵיכֶם מֵאֶֽרץ וְנֶאֱמַר: בָּרוּךְ כֻּלָּם אֱלֹהֵיכֶם וַעֲשִיתֶם לָכֶם לֵֽאלהִים מִצְוָתָי.

מִי כְּבָאֵל יְיָ, מִי כְּבָאֵל אֱלֹהִים יְיָ, נִ Creatures have no answer.

יִשְׂרָאֵל, יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּרָכָּם רָאֲבֵנִי, בָּרָכָּם הָאָדָל, אַמְרוּ: יִשְׂרָאֵל, יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּרָכָּם, יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּרָכָּם. כִּי יְדֵו הָאָדָל אֲנִי יְיָ, יִשְׂרָאֵל, יִשְׂרָאֵל בָּרָכָּם. בָּרוּךְ אֶלָּה אֱלֹהִים אֱדֹאָב.
Grant that we may lie down in peace, Eternal G-d, and awaken us to life. Shelter us with Your tent of peace and guide us with Your good counsel. Shield us from hatred, plague and destruction. Keep us from warm famine and anguish. Help us to deny our inclination to evil. G-d of peace, may we always feel protected because You are our Guardian and Helper. Give us refuge in the shadow of Your wings. Guard our going forth and our coming in and bless us with life and peace. Blessed are You, Eternal G-d, whose shelter of peace is spread over us, over all Your people Israel, and over Jerusalem.


Seven conscious blessings: an abbreviated Amidah

Thinking about our ancestors and our connection with them:
For ancestors and origins: Blessed are You Who shields Abraham and calls Sarah lovingly to mind.

Thinking about the cycles of life and our place in them:
For nurturing and healing the world through the waters of rain and dew and the tears of human compassion: Blessed are You Who gives life to the dead.

Thinking about what is holy to us, how to make ourselves holy:
For bringing the vision of fuller holiness to the world through the holy hope of Your coming holy reign of justice and peace: Blessed are You, Holy G-d.

Thinking about our creative power, and how to renew ourselves so that it may flourish:
For restfulness: Blessed are You Who sanctifies Shabbat.

Thinking about what makes divine presence manifest in time and space:
For the reunion of sacred time, sacred space, and sacred peoplehood: Blessed are You, who restores Your presence to Zion.
Thinking about all we have to be thankful for, and how we can give thanks to the Eternal:
With thankfulness for our blessings: Blessed are You, G-d of thankfulness.

Praying for peace for the peoples of the world, in our time:
For peace, loving kindness, and enlightenment: Blessed are You, Who blesses with peace Your G-d-wrestling people and all who dwell on earth.

We pause for a moment of silent meditation.
Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya’aseh shalom aleinu! V’al kol Yisrael, v’imru amen.
May the one who makes peace in the high heavens make peace for us & for all Israel.

(Prayer for Wholeness)

Prayer for Wholeness
Oh World of Miracles, you are supremely broken.
Your shards are painful and cutting.
Your pieces are scattered across the globe, aching for wholeness.
We seek justice and peace in you.
We long and love, divine sparks igniting fires within us.
We tend the embers and feed the flames, at times nearly consuming ourselves and our neighbors.
We pray for--no, we demand--open heartedness and resilience.
We seek grace and peace.
We pursue justice.
May the fragments of our world and the brokenness of our souls be blessed with strength, wisdom, and compassion.
May we be whole again, quickly, in our days.

(Alex Weissman)

Mourner’s Kaddish
Your community can take a moment to name count those whose deaths or yartzeits you are marking. If you are saying kaddish for those who have died in communal tragedies, consider having everyone stand and say kaddish together. Also give individuals an opportunity to name the other recent deaths and yartzeits they want to mark.

Exalted and hallowed be G-d’s great name, in the world which G-d created, according to plan. May G-d’s majesty be revealed in the days of your lifetime and the life of all Israel - speedily, imminently. kariv, v’imru: Amen.

To which we say: Amen.
Blessed by G-d’s great name to all eternity. Blessed, praised, honored, exalted, extolled, glorified, adored, and lauded be the name of the Holy Blessed One, beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise, and comfort, to which we say: Amen.

May the One who causes peace to reign in the high heavens, cause peace to reign among us, all Israel, and all the world, and let us say: Amen.

Concluding

You can use any song, poem, or reading that feels most appropriate for your community to conclude services.

We who believe in freedom cannot rest

We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes

(from Ella’s Song by Bernice Johnson Reagon)
A Litany for Survival, by Audre Lorde

For those of us who live at the shoreline standing upon the constant edges of decision crucial and alone for those of us who cannot indulge the passing dreams of choice who love in doorways coming and going in the hours between dawns looking inward and outward at once before and after seeking a now that can breed futures like bread in our children’s mouths so their dreams will not reflect the death of ours ***

For those of us who were imprinted with fear like a faint line in the center of our foreheads learning to be afraid with our mother’s milk for by this weapon this illusion of some safety to be found the heavy-footed hoped to silence us For all of us this instant and this triumph We were never meant to survive.

And when the sun rises we are afraid it might not remain when the sun sets we are afraid it might not rise in the morning when our stomachs are full we are afraid of indigestion when our stomachs are empty we are afraid we may never eat again when we are loved we are afraid love with vanish when we are alone we are afraid love will never return and when we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard nor welcomed but when we are silent we are still afraid. ***

So it is better to speak remembering we were never meant to survive.

“It is our duty to fight for our freedom.
It is our duty to win.
We must love each other, and protect each other.
We have nothing to lose but our chains.”

Assata Shakur
it is written
the act of writing is
holy words are
sacred and your breath
brings out the
G-d in them
i write these words
quickly repeat them
softly to myself
this talisman for you
fold this prayer
around your neck fortify
your back with these
whispers
may you walk ever
loved and in love
know the sun
for warmth the moon
for direction
may these words always
remind you your breath
is sacred words
bring out the G-d
in you

What is a Jew in solitude?
What is a woman in solitude, a queer woman or man?
When the winter flood-tides wrench the tower from the rock, crumble the prophet’s headland, and the farms slide into the sea
when leviathan is endangered and Jonah becomes revenger
when center and edges are crushed together, the extremities crushed together on which the world was founded
when our souls crash together, Arab and Jew, howling our loneliness within the tribes
when the refugee child and the exile’s child re-open the blasted and forbidden city
when we who refuse to be women and men as women and men are chartered, tell our stories of solitude spent in multitude
in that world as it may be, newborn and haunted, what will solitude mean?