

Sometimes even the Rabbi doesn't know what to say.

Those who know me a little better personally will know that I usually have a way of finding the words. Rabbis are schmoozers; it's in our proverbial DNA. We tease and weave threads of meaning out of the most frayed of circumstances. But at other times, I am reminded of the words of the Psalmist: '*Lecha dumya tehilah*' - 'to You, silence is praise' (Ps. 65:1).

It is hard to find the words right now; even harder to find the right words. I dare speak for many of us that we find ourselves overwhelmed, devastated and enraged by the recent loss of *Roe v. Wade*. We can all think deeply about abortion; have complex, contradictory, nuanced thoughts on what constitutes life, personhood and sanctity. Still, even in its usual pluriformity, Jewish Law is

not have more ponderings or opinions to add. I just want to sit with you, our congregation, a center of Jewish life and values in Iowa, and meet you in your shock, sadness, fear and anger. I want to be with you in this moment, as your rabbi, but also as a mother and wife, whose very bodily autonomy has also been violated by this ruling. The dust has not yet settled on this calamity; it is too early to tell what the complex consequences might be, but it is within reason to be deeply concerned for the state and soul of our country.

*'Shomea tefilah odecha kol basar yavo'u'* – the Psalm follows on in verse 2. 'All flesh [as in

humanity] comes to You in prayer.' This verse is so poignant to our present moment. Do we read it prescriptively or descriptively? If the first, religion becomes triumphalist and coercive. God forbid. This

Even with doubt and scepticism, we can engage in sacred acts of connection that feel deep and real without having to abdicate the critical