

## **Candle Lighting**

by Jim Miller

We light a candle in memory of those who have handed us the gift of life itself. We honor those who gave us birth and nurtured us, those who endowed us with heritage and raised us, those who offered us love and cherished us.

We remember mothers and fathers, grandparents and great-grandparents, and all our ancestors through the ages. We remember also those who were as mother or father to us, loving us by choice rather than by chance.

We light a candle in memory of those who have been linked with us in the ongoing chain of family life. We honor those who have shared our heredity and who have experienced our common bonds.

We remember sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, relatives near and distant throughout time.

We light a candle in memory of those to whom we ourselves have passed on the precious gift of life. We hold dear to our hearts those we have held dear in our arms and in our dreams.

We remember children who have gone before us, and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. We remember those who lived within the womb and those who danced upon the earth.

We light a candle in memory of those whom we discovered through the eyes of love in our journey through life. We hold sacred the remembrances of those who brightened our days with affection and who lit up our lives with devotion.

We remember husbands and wives, dearest partners and closest friends, those who opened us to ourselves and to life even as we opened ourselves to them and now to eternity.

We light a candle in memory of those who have walked beside us in so many ways. We remember ones who worked with us and played with us, ones who have made our time on earth more enjoyable and our experiences in this world more memorable.

We remember friends and associates, those who neighbored us and lifted us and expanded our horizons.

We light a candle aware of the fact that others will join our ranks in days to come, that they are doing so even now. They will sit where we now sit and feel what we now feel. Our hearts reach out to them.

We remember also that the time will come when we ourselves will pass through the barrier separating one form of life from another. We know that as we remember today, we will be remembered tomorrow.