



## SHABBAT EVENING CANDLE LIGHTING & READING INSTRUCTIONS

**Reader must be Bar/Bat Mitzvah Age**

**Lighter may be any age; does not need to be Jewish**

Thank you very much for honoring the congregation through the lighting of the Shabbat candles. As the ritual act which formally ushers in the Shabbat, the candle lighting sets a mood for the entire Shabbat evening worship experience. For your convenience and preparation, we are enclosing the page of the *siddur* which includes the candle lighting for your Shabbat service. So that you will feel comfortable, we have detailed the procedure and choreography of the candle lighting for you and ask you to follow these instructions:

- 1) **Please take a seat in the front row of the Sanctuary or the Chapel, directly in front of the candles.**
- 2) The candles are lit following the congregational singing of the psalms of Kabbalat Shabbat. **During the last song (usually Tzadik Katamar), please come forward and stand in front of the candles. If you are the reader, bring your prayer book with you and come next to the podium.** Check in with the rabbi before the service to confirm timing of candle lighting.
- 3) The rabbi will announce the page number for candle lighting, page 3. There are two readings on the page. You may choose **one** to read (you do not have to announce which one, just begin reading). **The reader should begin reading immediately after the candle lighting is announced.** [Please note that you will not be introduced by name. The cue is the announcement.]\*
- 4) If you are candle lighting, please check to see that the short candle between the Sabbath candles is lit. (If not, light the short candle with the matches that are provided). Using the long stick which has the wick at the end of it, put the wick into the lighted short candle and then light the Sabbath candles. After the tall candles are lit, pull the wick through the bottom of the stick (there should be a little handle at the bottom of the stick to help pull the wick through.) If you would like to check out the table or need any assistance, just ask the usher or shamash.

The candlelighter, should light candles after the sanctuary lights are dimmed. (This will be at the end of introductory reading). Once lit, please face candles and wait.

- 5) Both the reader and the blesser should face the candles as the blessing is sung by the Cantor. *If it is your custom, please hold or wave your hands over the candles.* After the blessing is sung in Hebrew, the lights will come on, then, together the lighter and reader return to their seats.

**Thank you, Shabbat Shalom!**

\*Your name will be printed in the Shabbat card.