Lighting the Festival Candles

(One of these meditations may be used.)

Happy are those of steadfast faith
Who will can bless the light of candles
Shining in the darkness....
Rejoice, O Earth, in those who keep the way,
For there is still song for them within you.

May the festival lights we now kindle
Inspire us to use our powers
To heal and not to harm,
To help and not to hinder,
To bless and not to curse,
To serve You, O God of Freedom.

* * *

(The candles are lighted as the blessing is recited or chanted.)

כָּנַשׁ עַל הָעֵדֶּן מָלֵךְ מָלֵךְ מָלֵךְ מִקּוֹצֵי לָיְבֵּךְ עֵצִים מִשְׁלָחֵנִי גָּזַע
לָמָּלֶכֶךְ רֵאָה (שַׁבָּתוֹת) וּמִי מָזֹּב

Barukh Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melekh ha-olam asher kiddishu b’mikra-rov
v’tezivanu l’hadlik ner shel (shabbat v’shel) yom tov.

In praising God we say that all life is sacred.
In kindling festive lights,
we preserve life’s sanctity.
With every holy light we kindle,
the world is brightened to a higher harmony.
We praise You, God, majestic sovereign of all life,
Who hallows our lives with commandments
and bids us kindle festive holy light.

כֶּסֶף קִדוּשׁ

Kos Kiddush, The First Cup—the Cup of Sanctification

Leader

Our story tells that in diverse ways, with different words, God gave promises of freedom to our people. With cups of wine we recall each one of them, as now, the first:

Group

אָנִי וְאֶחָדָי אֲנָשָׁה יֵקֹּחָה מָשָׁא מִצְרָיִם
I am Adonai and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians.