Baruch atah, Adonai
Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
asher kid’shanu b’mitzvotav,
v’tzivanu l’hadlik
ner shel Shabbat.
God began the world by saying, “Let there be light.”
We begin Shabbat with candlelight, saying, “Baruch atah, Adonai.”

God finished creating the world by making Shabbat a holy day.
We make Shabbat a holy day for ourselves.

May the warm glow of these candles remind us of God’s light.
And may this Shabbat be a special, holy time for us.

As these Shabbat candles give light to all who behold them,
so may we, by our lives, give light to all who behold us.

As their brightness reminds us of the generations of Israel
who have kindled light,
so may we, in our own day, be among those who kindle light.

Did You Know? Over hundreds and hundreds of years, Jewish people have created a special way of lighting Shabbat candles. Usually we recite a brachah, or blessing, first and then complete an activity connected to that blessing. But lighting Shabbat candles has its own rules. First we light the candles, then we sweep our hands three times to gather the warmth of Shabbat toward us, then we cover our eyes as if the candles aren’t there yet. After the blessing, we uncover our eyes and look: lit candles.

Did You Know? Imagine a world many years ago when the sun would set and darkness touched every space. Almost two thousand years ago, the Rabbis taught us to light candles as part of our Shabbat celebration, bringing light to the surrounding darkness.