

## *Prayers for lighting a candle*

By John Birch

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I have lit a candle, Lord,  
and in the stillness  
within its flame  
I glimpse your light.  
I have lit a candle, Lord,  
and in the stillness  
within its warmth  
I sense your love.  
I have lit a candle, Lord,  
and in the stillness  
of this moment  
I bring my prayer

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This candle is alight  
for fellow travellers  
along this narrow road;  
helping one another,  
ministering to others,  
following your light  
and the sweet perfume  
of your love and grace  
onto mountain top  
and valley floor,  
wherever you may go.

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Blow gently on the spark  
that lies within our hearts,  
that a flame might grow  
and shed its warmth and light  
upon our daily journeying

with you beside, dear Lord.

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Thank you for the extended family  
that is your Church worldwide,  
our brothers and sisters in Christ  
who we shall never know in this life,  
but have an eternity in which to enjoy  
their fellowship in the life to come.  
May the prayer and worship  
that we offer here on earth  
rise as a fragrant offering,  
to enhance the heavenly chorus  
already praising your glorious name.

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We light a candle,  
and enjoy the flickering light,  
the fragrance  
and warmth it creates.  
But without the spark that ignites,  
there will be no flame.  
Without the wax,  
the source of power,  
the wick will not burn.  
Without the flame,  
there will be no fragrance,  
no warmth, no light.  
And so with us, Lord.  
You are the catalyst that ignites us,  
and the fuel that sustains us.  
You fill us with your fragrance  
as you enter our lives.  
You empower us  
to carry your flame in our hearts,  
to be the fragrance, warmth,  
and light of your love,  
in this dark world.

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May we be lamps,  
lit and sustained  
by your Spirit's flame,  
spreading your light,  
usefully placed  
to illuminate  
the way ahead,  
and encourage  
fellow travellers  
along the road of faith.

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Eternal flame  
burn brightly  
in my heart,  
and your light  
be revealed  
as it is opened.

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By the lighting of this candle  
I am reminded  
to be your lamp in this dark world.  
I am reminded  
to share your warmth with others.  
I am reminded  
of lights that have gone before.  
I am reminded  
of lights that even now grow dim.  
I am reminded  
to bring my prayerful offering.  
I am reminded  
to go from this place in joy.