



Lighting the light

There are five candles which we shall now light one by one...
By each candle we shall make an intercession.

A long procession of people walks through all the centuries:
Abraham and Sarah, called to a better land.
Moses and Miriam in front, through the Red Sea to their promised land.
Mary, in thought and sometimes singing,
Lamenting injustice.
Jesus of Nazareth who places love above the law
Unmasks hypocrites
And puts the vulnerable first.
For these people we light a light.

A long procession of people walks through all the centuries.
This procession walks in our time too: Argentina's mothers of the Plaza de Mayo
Who keep asking about their sons and husbands who have disappeared,
And in their wake all the other mothers and women in our world.
Women like Rigoberta Menchu
Who haven't given up the struggle for their people's rights.
For these women and all who walk in their wake
We light a light.

A long procession of people walks through all the centuries.
This procession walks in our time too.
The Foundation of the Religious against Trafficking in Women
Who devote themselves worldwide
To complain about this injustice and to fight against it.
For them we light a light.

For all women with whom and for whom they work,
For all the girls and women in our world
Who have become and will become victims
Of trafficking in women, of exploitation,
For each person who is trodden under foot, injured, violated.
For them we light a light.

A long procession of people walks through all the centuries.
And we, as we stand here together, belong to that procession
With a long history of "to be for people":
Will light the light in the hope that we also in this time
Do not shut our eyes to what is happening in the world around us.