

## FIRST NIGHT

As we light the *Shamash*, it invokes for us the magic of the past - the stories of ancient rites, the legends of Hanukkah, and the strength and wisdom of our people.

*[Light Shamash]*

Hanukkah is the Festival of Lights. It is a time to remember the bravery and determination of those who came before us. Under the leadership of the Maccabees, our ancestors fought to defend a sacred idea - that people should be free to believe as they choose. Though they struggled against enormous odds, they overcame a mighty nation. Because of their strength, integrity, and vision, their dream became a reality.

We share the dream that our people and all people will one day live in freedom. As we light the first candle, we remember their victory and we rededicate ourselves to their vision.

*[Light candle]*

בְּרוּךְ הָאוֹר בְּעוֹלָם     *Baruch ha-or ba-olam*

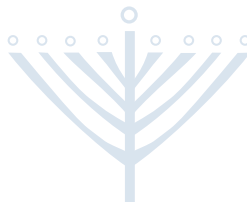
Blessed is the light within the world

בְּרוּךְ הָאוֹר בְּאָדָם     *Baruch ha-or ba-adam*

Blessed is the light within each person

בְּרוּךְ הָאוֹר בְּחֻנְכָּה     *Baruch ha-or ba-cha-nu-ka*

Blessed is the light of Hanukkah



## SECOND NIGHT

As we light the *Shamash*, it invokes for us the magic of the past - the stories of ancient rites, the legends of Hanukkah, and the strength and wisdom of our people.

*[Light Shamash]*

Hanukkah is about changing seasons. As we move toward winter, darkness comes earlier each day, and we depend on heavy clothes and the security of our homes for warmth. Long ago, before there were telescopes, before scientists understood the motion of the planets, people feared the cold and darkness of winter. They made up stories to explain the changing seasons, and ceremonies to restore warmth and light to the earth. As the seasons passed and new generations came and went, the ancient rituals were woven into the Hanukkah celebrations.

Although today we know with certainty that winter will pass, we light these candles to bring warmth to our homes, shut tight against the winter's cold.

*[Light candles]*

בְּרוּךְ הָאוֹר בְּעוֹלָם *Baruch ha-or ba-olam*

Blessed is the light within the world

בְּרוּךְ הָאוֹר בְּאָדָם *Baruch ha-or ba-adam*

Blessed is the light within each person

בְּרוּךְ הָאוֹר בְּחֻנְכָּה *Baruch ha-or ba-cha-nu-ka*

Blessed is the light of Hanukkah

