

Celebration of Light

Marie Goulding, Toronto, Ontario

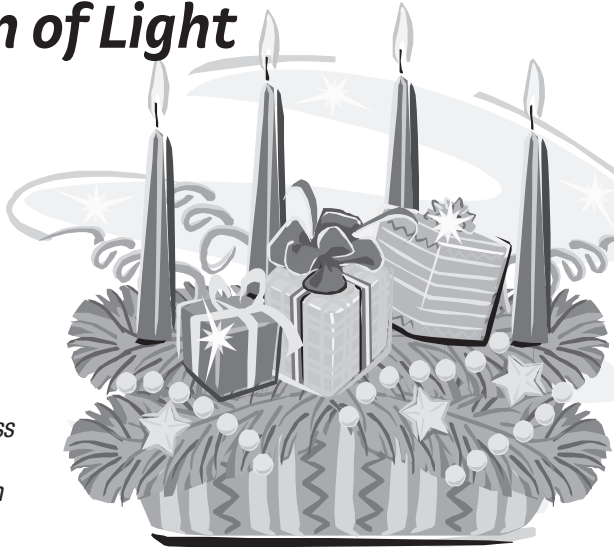
Candles can be lit by persons representing the Old Year, New Year and each month of the year. Candles are lit from the lighted candle representing Christ, the Light of the World.

Leader: Living Candles

*I want to give myself to witness
To my Lord who loved me so
To be a light, a hope, a beacon
And to shine where're I go.*

*To be a candle, that's mission
To serve the Lord is my great aim
As I spread the gospel story
This is my prayer—others catch the flame.*

*To shine to glow is still my purpose
For the Lord has loved me so
How can I help but share Him
When there's inward praise and glow.*



*Dear Lord, I'll keep my candle burning
For others depend on me
Other lives I'm touching surely
As I share my life for Thee.*

*My candlelight is so important
For my Lord, he understands
That I give my cup of water
With a loving heart and willing hands.*

*I dedicate afresh my candle
To let it shine my work to do.
As it shines in leading others
It lights my own pathway too.*

Douglas Hefford

Song: SASB 190/TB 21 (music for verse only). *Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

Scripture: John 1:4 & John 8:12

Chorus: *This Little Light Of Mine*

Old Year

I represent the old year. I am broken dreams and failures. I am a burnt candle (*light candle*).



I have felt the crushing weight of men's hatred, intolerance, greed and indulgence. It seems that the world is one battlefield. My greatest fear is that because of the failures and mistakes of last year I will fail to look ahead to a new and shining future.

- My greatest claim to success is the essence of a faith in the things that matter and in that faith, I am strong.
- Faith that the failures of the past year are but stepping stones to the future.
- Faith that the memory of failure can be landscaped by the successes of the future.
- Faith in the Divine plan of God that gives us confidence to trust Him for whatever lies ahead.
- I am the old year. I point you to the New Year in confidence that upon the foundations of the past your future can be built.

Chorus

I know the Lord will make a way for me,
(Repeat)
To shun the wrong and do the right,
To live a pure and holy life,
I know the Lord will make a way for me.

New Year

(Light candle) I am the New Year. I am the one unspoiled part of the beauty in God's Universe. I represent romance, glitter, high resolutions and dreams. My only handicap is the dead weight of old habits and hard-set ways of doing things that I must carry over from the past into the ministry of what is new.

My only hope is in your faith. Faith that what has proven impossible by experience can be



attained. Faith that He who said, "Behold I make all things new" will bring you a new year filled with all the good blessings of God.

Chorus: to the tune of:
Lord, Lift Me Up
Shine on me, Lord, new life impart,
Thy Spirit kindles in my heart
Thus may my life forever be
A lamp to light the way to Thee.

Leader

Opening up before us are twelve months as each month will bring us opportunities to do well. In our Christian experience each month demands will wrestle for our time, ability and finances.

During each minute, hour, day and week may we seek the guidance of Christ, the Light of the World for we can trust Him to lead us.

Who will carry the Light of personal consecration into all walks of life, home, family, ministry? This is the great challenge — let us light the monthly candles in our hearts that we will be lights of truth, purity, strength, courage,



friendship, generosity, humility and a high purpose. To accomplish this we must place our hands in His.

Solo: SASB 732/TB687 *I'm In His Hands*

Candle to be lit prior to each reading

January: As I begin this New Year with God, may I also begin each new day with Him, reading His word and praying for His guidance.



February: In February we think of love. May our hearts this year be so filled with His love that we will want to serve Him supremely.

March: Just as the farmer sows seeds to produce a plentiful harvest, so may all of us sow seeds this year that will live for eternity.

April: April is the month of rain showers. May we all be willing to allow the spirit of the living God to shower His blessings upon us.



Chorus: *Showers Of Blessings, Showers Of Blessings We Need.*

May: I pray that the God who created the world

with all its beauty will create within us the things that make for beauty of character.

June: As the beauty of nature unfolds before us, may we each aspire to radiate the matchless love of the Christ we serve.

July: As we thank God for our Nation let us pray that when we are finished with this life we will become a citizen of His Kingdom.

August: May the warmth and brightness of sunny summer days make us more conscious that no earth-borne cloud can over shadow the Son of Righteousness.

Chorus: *Heavenly Sunshine
Heavenly sunshine, Heavenly sunshine
Flooding my soul, with glory Divine;
Hallelujah, I am rejoicing,
Singing His praises, Jesus is mine.*

September: School bells ring in September calling students to return to the halls of learning. Let us make it our sincere prayer that we will be endued with the wisdom that comes from on high.



October: It's harvest time. May we be willing to witness to our faith that the harvest of souls we pray for will become a reality.

November: Despite the chill of the coming winter may we so live that we constantly feel the warmth of His Spirit.



December: Christmas! May we seek to bring to the world the real meaning of the Season. As we worship the baby in the manger let us remember that the manger is but the beginning of the path to the cross.

Chorus: *O Come Let Us Adore Him*

Leader:

We can be victorious in our Christian living if we keep our lights brightly burning and keep trusting in the good Shepherd who also said, "I am the Light and you are the light."

Responsive Reading: see below

Chorus

To the tune of: *Coming This Way*

*Show me the way, Lord
Let my light shine
As an example of good to mankind
Help them to see a pattern of Thee
Shining in beauty, Lived out in me.*

Benediction

Responsive Reading

Use two people to read to the following — **first phase in bold** — *response in italics*

The Lord is my shepherd — *that's relationship!*

I shall not want — *that's supply!*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures — *that's rest!*

He leadeth me beside the still waters — *that's refreshment!*

He restoreth my soul — *that's healing!*

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness — *that's guidance!*

For His name sake — *that's purpose!*

Yea, though I walk through the valley of death — *that's testing!*

I will fear no evil — *that's protection!*

For thou art with me — *that's faithfulness!*

Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me — *that's discipline!*

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies — *that's hope!*

Thou anointest my head with oil — *that's consecration!*

My cup runneth over — *that's abundance!*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life — *that's blessing!*

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord — *that's security!*

Forever — *that's eternity!*