

As we light the candles tonight, we do so to bring continued illumination into this world, wisdom to our leaders, healing to our communities, passion into our hearts.

But we light our AIDS Candle first...to remember that the Holy One, Compassionate One, Spirit of the Living God, Arms of the Goddess, Divine Source of all that Is, burns brightly with us this night and all the days to come.

As we light the candle for our **World**, we remember that we are all connected, that borders cannot be seen from the Heavens but have been put there by us. We remember the millions around the world who don't have the access to the many blessings of healthcare and medications that we have here. May this light illuminate the world, showing us all that we are connected.

Lighting our next candle, we pray that the **politicians**, faith leaders, and all those in positions of authority around the world, in our country, state, county, city and faith communities will continue to make decisions filled with the Wisdom of the ages. May they not make decisions about our bodies, our lives, our actions, our sexualities from fear, but from knowledge, facts, and the Wisdom of the Spirit, ensuring that we all have access to the healing treatments that we need and are free from barriers to that which we need to heal.

This candle is for our **community**, one that burns brightly for healing...and most importantly for healing from our sadness and grief. May it light the way for us to actually CELEBRATE our lives TODAY, always keeping within us the memory of those who are not with us this day, and to remember to live and to live fully. To empower one another to make life affirming choices. To light the way out of our closets and into our homes. To remember that healing is needed not just around our own bodies, but around the bodies and lives of others...healing the racism and classism that still separates us; healing the oppressions that suffocate us; and healing from our fears of the "other."

And lastly, we light this candle to reignite the passion within our **hearts**. May this light bring us into a new day living with HIV/AIDS...igniting a passion for truth and facts; a passion for embracing one another no matter our "status;" igniting our passion for Living THIS day in all our fullness...as individuals and as community.

Blessings to us all as we bring our light into this Sacred Space tonight.