Mothers Prayer for Peace

Let us light candles

Two mothers, one plea: Now, more than ever, during these days of so much crying, on days sacred to both our religions, let us light a candle in every home - for peace.

A candle to illuminate our future, face to face, A candle across borders, beyond fear.

From our family homes and houses of worship Let us light each other up, Let these candles be a lighthouse to our spirit Until we all arrive at the sanctuary of peace.

Written in 2014, in response to the latest cycle of violence in the Middle East, by Sheikha Ibtisam Mahamid and Rabbi Tamar Elad-Appelbaum - two religious leaders, Palestinian and Israeli, who are mothers and lovers of peace. They invite us to recite the prayer along with the lighting of candles every friday - the sacred day for both Muslims and Jews, and every time we come together to pray for peace.

English translation by Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie
Let us light candles

God of Life
Who heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds
May it be your will to hear the prayer of mothers
For you did not create us to kill each other
Nor to live in fear, anger or hatred in your world
But rather you have created us so we can grant permission to one another to sanctify
Your name of Life, your name of Peace in this world.

For these things I weep, my eye, my eye runs down with water
For our children crying at nights,
For parents holding their children with despair and darkness in their hearts
For a gate that is closing, and who will open it before the day has ended?

And with my tears and prayers which I pray
And with the tears of all women who deeply feel the pain of these difficult days
I raise my hands to you please God have mercy on us
Hear our voice that we shall not despair
That we shall see life in each other,
That we shall have mercy for each other,
That we shall have pity on each other,
That we shall hope for each other

And we shall write our lives in the book of Life
For your sake God of Life
Let us choose Life.

For you are Peace, your world is Peace and all that is yours is Peace,
And so shall be your will and let us say Amen.