

## Julie Perrin's story



We bought identical candle holders for each member of our family when my Dad died. We light a candle on the anniversary of his death and for family celebrations to acknowledge his absence. And now, following my mother's death we have two of these candle holders in our house and we light this second one to remember her and acknowledge her absence also.

Listening to Wiradjuri Bidawal woman, Elaine Terrick's story during worship this morning, I heard and felt a deep appreciation for her ancestors and a gratitude for their survival. On a smaller scale, this reminds me of the gratitude I feel for my father's life. Despite being chronically ill all through my life he lived until 71 years old. Responding to Elaine's story I feel a call to appreciate my ancestors and all the people who have gone before me, to feel gratitude for all that they have lived through.

Lighting candles is a reminder and a way of holding people. Last night I lit a candle for a friend whose father died. And I sent a message to her to share this. Lighting candles in this way is not a practice that I grew up with but it is has become a tangible reminder, a way of holding prayer for people.

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