

Deb Blackmore & Mikul Denison's story



Lighting a candle for worship, 22nd November 2020, Reign of Christ

May this light shine that me may see

May this light of Christ shine on those in need

And burn in us to be the hands that

Feed, welcome, clothe, heal and visit.

The candle lighting was a special time for us as Mike flies out for Afghanistan. The words from Matthew's gospel reminded us of the call we all have, to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe those without clothes, heal the sick and visit the prisoners. It was a very timely for us to remember this and reflect on it as Mike heads off on another mission with Red Cross.

We decided to use our "circle of Friends" candle holder for the service. It was a gift for our wedding from friends who live in WA and we light it every time we have friends and visitors into our home. It has not been used much this year, but it seems timely that we invite our church community into our home to light this candle, representing the light of Christ. We have missed gathering and the arms joining the circle of friend together reminds us that we are connected even when we are physically apart.

The vases in the clip are from Kabul, I brought them back from Afghanistan when I was there, and we thought it would be nice to remember the people of Afghanistan at this time. Of course, a people caught up in war for so long, but especially today when the reality of the atrocities of the Australian SAS are revealed and highlight how much more pain there has been. We offered a prayer for those who have suffered terribly.

For us today, lighting the candle is also a prayer for Mike on his journey to Afghanistan and for the work he will do, that the light will shine for him to see the work that needs to be done. The Mexican cultural tradition, we are told, is to light the candle in the rondos (round). The burning candle represents the persons spirit, and the circle of friends or angels surround and guard the spirit bringing good health to the recipient. On all our missions overseas, we have always felt the love and prayers of BUC surrounding us and holding us and so we also offered up a prayer as we lit the candle tonight, that Mike will be surrounded at this time as he has been and that he might have the light burn in his heart on his journey. I will be lighting the candle while Mike is away to hold him in prayer and surround him and the people in need he might work with and care for.

Deb Blackmore 22-11-20