Responsive Reading: (Adapted from Psalm 141)

Lord I call unto you; answer my call, O God
Let my prayer be as a sweet offering unto you; the deeds of
my hands as a willing offering.

O Lord, guard my mouth that it not speak evil; my lips that they
bless and not hurt.
Turn my heart away from evil; the exploiting of friends and
those who work.

Keep me far from those who would exploit the weak; take
advantage of the powerless.
From their table may I not eat; from their abuses may I not
prosper.

Keep me far from those who gain from their iniquity, spare me
from the snare which they would spread before me.
For you are my refuge and my hope, my joy and my salvation.

S
habbat begins with the lighting of candles
and it ends with the lighting of candles.
How different they are. Two separate can-
dles inaugurate Shabbat. One intertwined candle
marks its close. These candles speak of those who
work. Justice for the worker calls us to listen to
the message of the candles.

The Shabbat candles tell us that it is time to rest,
that it is time to turn from our daily routine, and
set a limit to our labors. The Havdalah candle
lights our way back to the tasks that lie before us.
Both candles are to be blessed. It is a mistake to
take either work or rest for granted. Both are to be
sanctified by light. Both are to be blessed.

O God, Creator of us all, bless us with the memo-
ry of Shabbat rest. May we remember how preci-
cious is the calming presence of Thy spirit.
Despite our worries and problems, the peace of
Shabbat has been a calming presence in our trou-
bled lives. And for those who labor, that calming
presence offers the blessed promise that the etern-
al Shabbat for which we pray will tolerate no
exploitation of works, no seizing of pensions, no
revoking of health care benefits or time to rest.
For who can really look back upon a Shabbat
where these injustices were allowed to remain
unquestioned, allowed to stand unchallenged?

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

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Phone: (773) 728-8400 • Fax: (773) 728-8409 • E-mail: info@iwj.org • Website: www.iwj.org)
Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Creator of all the spices.
(The spice box is circulated)

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, Creator of the light of fire.
(The candle is raised)

And now as we prepare to extinguish this intertwined candle, we pause for a moment to think of those whose lives are intertwined with our own, whose labor makes our life more meaningful. (Pause for a moment to mention those whose work we all too often take for granted, and those who may be exploited through our indifference. Workers in sweatshops, men and women in the poultry industry, those overseas who are obliged to work long hours at minimal pay, day laborers, etc.)

May we never take these children of God for granted. Have we done all we can to make their future a promise of hope and joy rather than of oppression and desperation?

With clean hands, with pure hearts, may we come before our Creator as this new week begins. We will not rest, we cannot rest until there is justice; justice for those who are near; justice for those who are far away; justice in our homes, and in our factories and in our fields. Justice! Justice! Thou shalt pursue.
(The candle is extinguished)

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, who separates sacred from profane, light from darkness, the seventh day of rest from the six days of labor.
Blessed is the Lord, who separates the sacred from the profane.
(The candle is extinguished)

El-li-ya-hu ha-na-vi, El-li-ya-hu
ha-tish-bi; El-li-ya-hu, El-li-ya-hu,
El-li-ya-hu ha-gil-a-di.

Bim-hei-ra ve-ya-mei-nu, ya-vo
el-lei-nu; im ma-shi-ach ben
Da-vid, im ma-shi-ach ben
David. El-li-ya-hu....

A good week. A week of peace. May gladness reign and light increase....

Sha-vu-a tov....