

# The Community We Strive To Be

*A reading for Interfaith Family Month to precede candle lighting for Shabbat.*

Inspired by and adapted from the Vision statement of 1st Church in Cambridge – UCC. *Modified by Rabbi Maurice Harris.*



As we kindle Sabbath lights, we pray that this community is and will always strive to be...

...a community that is glad you're here no matter where you come from, what you look like, how old or young you are, how much money you have, or where you are on the journey of life.

...a community that loves and lives its Jewish heritage, yet flexibly entertains new people and new ideas.

...a community that celebrates the many blessings that interfaith families bring in helping to shape this Jewish community – blessings that are sometimes plainly visible, sometimes subtle.

...a community with a wide open door, celebrating this Shabbat with delight in the blessings of diversity.

...a community that hopes to help all who enter, whoever they are, to take one more step, or many more, towards the vision of Shalom – of enduring wholeness and peace – both within us and throughout the world.

This Shabbat, may we all be touched by the warm embrace of the Eternal One, the One whose spark animates all of us, together, tonight, here. Please join me in saying, *Amen*.