

Will You Light a Candle?
Katie Houts

CGA1815
Unison/two-part with piano
and optional congregation



Will You Light a Candle?



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to enable leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults.

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09/03/2026



From the Composer

Hope, peace, joy, and love. These four things are the foundation of all relationships and communities. These four things are what I wish for my own children to discover and experience ... and ultimately give back to the world around them.

The four stanzas of this simple poem pose a single question by a soloist/cantor/small ensemble (or unison choir) followed by a collective response which can be sung by a congregation, an audience, or the full choir:

Will you light a candle for hope?
Will you light a candle for hope?
We will light a candle for hope, to shine amid the dark.

I wrote this piece to be universally useable for all types of choirs: church choirs, community choirs, school choirs, interfaith choirs, and more. The text does not belong to one specific religious tradition, but instead encapsulates a core message represented in many faiths - including the important ritual of *light* or *candle-lighting*. A simple Part II in stanzas 2-3 offers a complementary melody that is accessible for any age or voicing.

Depending on your context, you might sing this piece in its entirety, as written. Or perhaps you'll use this as a short ritual song over a 4-week period, singing one stanza at a time; if this is the case, you can begin the accompaniment at the indicated (*) to highlight individual stanzas.

I hope this piece finds a meaningful home with your ensemble and can be brought out when it's needed - perhaps during a community crisis, a vigil, or a particular season - reminding us to light our candles of *hope, peace, joy, and love* for the good of our beautiful world.



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With intention (♩ = 60)

Piano

(*) *p*

mp

3

Choir or Soloist
mp

Will you light a

6

All Voices

can - dle for hope? Will you light a can - dle for hope? **We will light a**

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a piano introduction in D major, 4/4 time, marked 'With intention' and a tempo of quarter note = 60. The piano part features a melody in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The introduction ends with a piano (p) dynamic. The voice part enters at measure 3, marked 'Choir or Soloist' and mezzo-piano (mp). The lyrics are: 'Will you light a can - dle for hope? Will you light a can - dle for hope? We will light a'. The piano accompaniment continues throughout the vocal parts.

If using this anthem for Advent candle-lighting and wishing to sing an individual verse each week, the accompanist can begin at indicated spots marked with (*) and end each verse with a D chord on *dark*.

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8

can - dle for hope, to shine a - mid the

10

dark. Will you light a

(*) *mf*

Part II (optional)

12

Pa - cem, pa - cem,

Part I

can - dle for peace? Will you light a can - dle for peace? We will light a



14

II pa - cem a - mid the dark.

I can - dle for peace, to shine a - mid the dark.

(*)

17

II Joy in our hearts,

I Will you light a can - dle for joy? Will you light a

f

19

II joy to the world! Joy comes

I can - dle for joy? We will light a can - dle for joy, to

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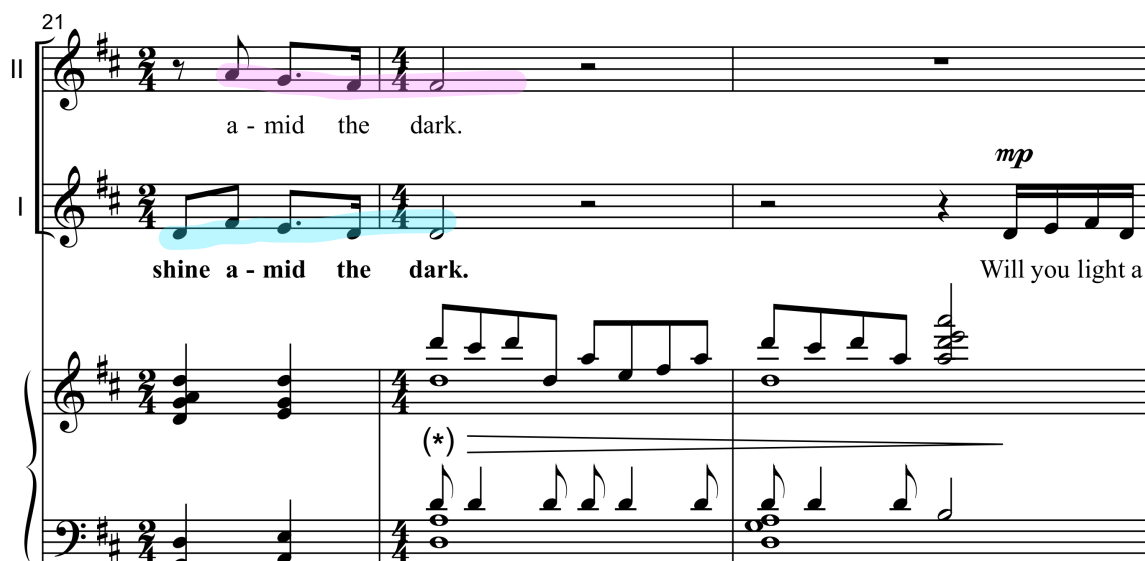


21

II a - mid the dark.

I shine a - mid the dark. *mp* Will you light a

(*)



24

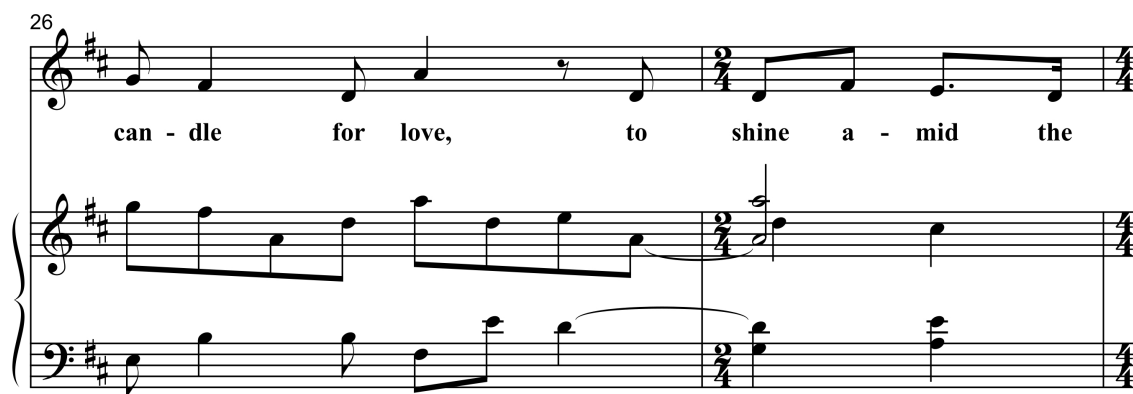
can - dle for love? Will you light a can - dle for love? We will light a

mp



26

can - dle for love, to shine a - mid the



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28

dark. The world needs hope, and

30

peace, joy, and love to shine a - mid the

32

dark.

34

rit. *p*

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Will You Light a Candle?



- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| 1. Will you light a can - dle | for hope? | Will you light a |
| 2. Will you light a can - dle | for peace? | Will you light a |
| 3. Will you light a can - dle | for joy? | Will you light a |
| 4. Will you light a can - dle | for love? | Will you light a |



can - dle	for hope?	We will light a can-dle	for hope,	to
can - dle	for peace?	We will light a can-dle	for peace,	to
can - dle	for joy?	We will light a can-dle	for joy,	to
can - dle	for love?	We will light a can-dle	for love,	to



shine	a - mid	the	dark.
shine	a - mid	the	dark.
shine	a - mid	the	dark.
shine	a - mid	the	dark.

From: *Will You Light a Candle?* (CGA1815).

Text: Katie Houts

Music: Katie Houts

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