"*Hanerot Hallelu,"*

We light these lights  
for the instigators and the refusers  
the obstinate and unyielding  
for the ones who kept marching  
the ones who tended the fires  
the ones would not bow down.

We light these lights  
for the sparks that guide us on  
through the gentle night  
for the darkness that swaddles us  
its soft embrace until the moment  
we inevitably emerge  
into life renewed.

We light these lights  
for the spirit of resilience that remains  
after our strength has ebbed away  
for the steadfast knowledge even as  
the bullets echo repeatedly  
off bodies lying in the streets  
that the impunity of the powerful  
cannot last forever.

These lights we light tonight  
will never be used for any other purpose  
but to proclaim the miracle  
of this truth:  
it is not by might nor by cruelty  
but by a love that burns relentlessly  
that this broken world  
will be redeemed.

Rabbi Brant Rosen