

Prayer Shawl Opening Prayer

As we begin, we light a candle in the midst of our presence.

Creator of the Universe,
We light this candle as a reminder of Your presence as we begin.

We ask a blessing from all who have come before us;
whose hands have been instruments of creation and beauty;
who have used humble tools and hand-spun wool in order to provide cover and warmth for themselves and those they loved;
who have felt, as we will feel, the yarn in their fingers;
who have seen, as we will see, the growth of the fabric;
who have heard, as we will hear, the click of the needles.

Guide our attention to stay on course.
Hold us close and ground us.
Bless, also, this yarn and these needles.
May any negative energy connected to them be cast away as we cast on;
and all positive energy bound in as we bind off.
In their simplicity, may we find comfort and solace.

Bless our hands...
Often just appendages at the end of our arms...
workers doing their job without appreciation...looked at, yet not really seen.
These instruments of love have done mundane tasks, yet also create beauty.
They reach out, touch, stroke, scrub, lift, grasp, gesture and guide.
These hands, our hands, gifts of great importance,
Blessings be on them and in them as we begin.
May the fruits of their labour be good!

Adapted from <https://www.shawlministry.com/prayers.htm>