

# Proclamation of Thanksgiving

by the President of the United States of America

**T**he year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful years and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the Source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they can not fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign states to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere, except in the theater of military conflict, while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense have not arrested the plow, the shuttle, or the ship; the ax has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than theretofore. Population has steadily increased notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege, and the battlefield, and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity, and union.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

*A. Lincoln*

## General Thanksgiving.

BY THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
A PROCLAMATION.

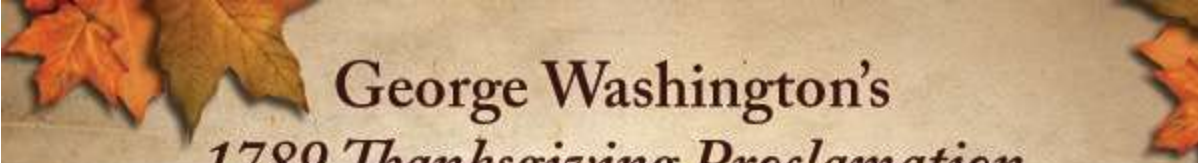
**W**HEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God--to obey his will--to be grateful for his benefits--and humbly to implore his protection and favour: And whereas both Houses have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States, a DAY of PUBLICK THANKSGIVING and PRAYER, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

*NOW THEREFORE*, I do recommend and assign THURSDAY, the TWENTY-SIXTH DAY of NOVEMBER next, to be devoted by the people of these States, to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be: That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks for his kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favourable interpositions of his Providence in the course and conclusion of the late war;--for the great degree of tranquility, union and plenty, which we have since enjoyed;--for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions of Government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted;--for the civil and religious Liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge;--and in general, for all the great and various favours which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

AND ALSO, That we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions;--to enable us all, whether in publick or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us); and to bless them with good government, peace and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

*GIVEN* under my hand, at the city of New-York, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

*George Washington.*



## George Washington's *1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation*

"WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been able to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations, especially such as have shown kindness to us, and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best."

*"Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

*1 Corinthians 15:57*

*May you have a blessed Thanksgiving.*

*Sincerely Yours,*

*Dr. and Mrs. Steven Hatze*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
**JOHN A. ANDREW,**  
GOVERNOR:

## A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, The President of the United States of America did by his Proclamation, Dated at Washington, on the fifth day of July current, "set apart THURSDAY, the sixth day of August next to be observed as a day for National Thanksgiving, Praise and Prayer" in recognition of the wonderful things done by the Divine Majesty in behalf of this Nation;

I do therefore direct and request that the aforesaid Proclamation of the Chief Executive Magistrate of the United States be published and promulgated to the people of Massachusetts in the same manner in which the Proclamation of the Government of Massachusetts is accustomed to be promulgated, exhibiting the Annual Thanksgiving observed in this Commonwealth.

I earnestly trust not only that in all our Churches and Congregations of religious worship, the day may be observed by becoming acts of public thanksgiving, but that every heart may find an altar on which to lay its offering of humble and grateful praise.

Given at the Great Chamber, in Boston, this twenty-seventh day of July, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and the eighty-eighth of the Independence of the United States.

**JOHN A. ANDREW.**

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR: OLIVER WARNER, Secretary.

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
**ABRAHAM LINCOLN,**  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

## A PROCLAMATION

For a Day of Thanksgiving, Praise, and Prayer.

It has pleased Almighty God to bestow on supplications and prayers of an afflicted people, and to succor to the Army and Navy of the United States on the land and on the sea, victories as signal and as effective as it is hardly reasonable grounds for unqualified confidence, that the Union of these States will be maintained, their constitution preserved, and Liberty and property permanently established; and these victories have been awarded not without sacrifice of life, limb, health, and property, endured by brave, patriotic and loyal citizens. Domestic afflictions in every part of the country follow in the train of these martial achievements.

It is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the Almighty Father and the power of His hand equally in these triumphs and these sorrows.

Now, therefore, be it known, that I do set apart, **THURSDAY, THE SIXTH DAY OF AUGUST NEXT**, to be observed as a day for National Thanksgiving, Praise and Prayer; and I invite the people of the United States to assemble on that occasion in their customary places of worship, and in the same approval by their own consciences, render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things he has done in the Nation's behalf; and beside the influence of His holy spirit to subdue the anger which has produced and so long sustained a worthless rebellion; to change the hearts of the insurgents to gentle obedience of the government with which obediently to co-operate in a national emergency; and to yield with cheerful and unflinching submission throughout the length and breadth of our land all those who through the vicissitudes of success, reverse, hardship, and danger have been brought to suffer in mind, body, or estate; and finally, to lead the whole Nation, through paths of repentance and submission to the Divine Will, back to the perfect enjoyment of Liberty and National Power, and to the enjoyment of these blessings on our land and upon the sea of the Confederation be affixed. Done at the City of Washington this thirtieth day of July, in the second year of these happy and auspicious events, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the thirty-eighth.

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN.**

BY THE PRESIDENT: WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

STATE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

In COMMITTEE of SAFETY,

EXETER, November 1, 1782.

ORDERED,

THAT the following Proclamation for a general THANKSGIVING on the twenty-eighth day of November instant, received from the honorable Continental Congress, be forthwith printed, and sent to the several worshipping Assemblies in this State, to whom it is recommended religiously to observe said day, and to abstain from all servile labour thereon.

M. WEARE, President.

By the United States in Congress assembled.

PROCLAMATION.

IT being the indispensable duty of all Nations, not only to offer up their supplications to ALMIGHTY GOD, the giver of all good, for his gracious assistance in a time of distress, but also in a solemn and public manner to give him praise for his goodness in general, and especially for great and signal interpositions of his providence in their behalf: Therefore the United States in Congress assembled, taking into their consideration the many instances of divine goodness to these States, in the course of the important conflict in which they have been so long engaged; the present happy and promising state of public affairs; and the events of the war, in the course of the year now drawing to a close; particularly the harmony of the public Councils, which is so necessary to the success of the public cause; the perfect union and good understanding which has hitherto subsisted between them and their Allies, notwithstanding the artful and unwearied attempts of the common enemy to divide them; the success of the arms of the United States, and those of their Allies, and the acknowledgment of their independence by another European power, whose friendship and commerce must be of great and lasting advantage to these States:— Do hereby recommend to the inhabitants of these States in general, to observe, and request the several States to interpose their authority in appointing and commanding the observation of THURSDAY the twenty-eighth day of NOVEMBER next, as a day of solemn THANKSGIVING to GOD for all his mercies: and they do further recommend to all ranks, to testify their gratitude to GOD for his goodness, by a cheerful obedience to his laws, and by promising, each in his station, and by his influence, the practice of true and undefiled religion, which is the great foundation of public prosperity and national happiness.

*Done in Congress, at Philadelphia, the eleventh day of October, in the year of our LORD one thousand seven hundred and eighty-two, and of our State eighty and Independence, the seventh.*

JOHN HANSON, President.

Charles Thomson, Secretary.

PRINTED AT EXETER.

# PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, in just Punishment of our manifold Transgressions, it hath pleased the Supreme Disposer of all Events to visit these United States with a calamitous War, through which his Divine Providence hath hitherto in a wonderful Manner conducted us, so that we might acknowledge that the Race is not to the Swift, nor the Battle to the Strong: AND WHEREAS, notwithstanding the Chastisements received and Benefits bestowed, too few have been sufficiently awakened to a Sense of their Guilt, or warmed with Gratitude, or taught to amend their Lives and turn from their Sins, that so he might turn from his Wrath: AND WHEREAS, from a Consciousness of what we have merited at his Hands, and an Apprehension that the Malevolence of our disappointed Enemies, like the Incredulity of Pharaoh, may be used as the Scourge of Omnipotence to vindicate his slighted Majesty, there is Reason to fear that he may permit much of our Land to become the Prey of the Spoiler, our Borders to be ravaged, and our Habitations destroyed:

## RESOLVED,

THAT it be recommended to the several States to appoint the First *Thursday* in *May* next to be a Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer to Almighty God, that he will be pleased to avert those impending Calamities which we have but too well deserved: That he will grant us his Grace to repent of our Sins, and amend our Lives according to his Holy Word: That he will continue that wonderful Protection which hath led us through the Paths of Danger and Distress: That he will be a Husband to the Widow, and a Father to the fatherless Children, who weep over the Barbarities of a Savage Enemy: That he will grant us Patience in Suffering, and Fortitude in Adversity: That he will inspire us with Humility, Moderation, and Gratitude in prosperous Circumstances: That he will give Wisdom to our Councils, Firmness to our Resolutions, and Victory to our Arms: That he will bless the Labours of the Husbandman, and pour forth Abundance, so that we may enjoy the Fruits of the Earth in due Season: That he will cause Union, Harmony, and mutual Confidence to prevail throughout these States: That he will bestow on our great Ally all those Blessings which may enable him to be gloriously instrumental in protecting the Rights of Mankind, and promoting the Happiness of his Subjects: That he will bountifully continue his paternal Care to the Commander in Chief, and the Officers and Soldiers of the United States: That he will grant the Blessings of Peace to all contending Nations, Freedom to those who are in Bondage, and Comfort to the Afflicted: That he will diffuse Useful Knowledge, extend the Influence of True Religion, and give us that Peace of Mind which the World cannot give: That he will be our Shield in the Day of Battle, our Comforter in the Hour of Death, and our kind Parent and merciful Judge through Time and through Eternity.

*Done in CONGRESS, this Twentieth Day of March, in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Nine, and in the Third Year of our Independence.*

JOHN JAY, President.

*Attest.* CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

BY THE PRESIDENT  
*Of the United States of America,*  
**A Proclamation.**

WHEN we review the calamities which afflict so many other nations, the peaceful condition of the United States affords a much matter of consolation and satisfaction. Our exemption hitherto from foreign war—an increasing profusion of the continuance of that exemption—the great degree of internal tranquillity we have enjoyed—the recent confirmation of that tranquillity, by the suppression of an insurrection which so wantonly threatened it—the happy course of our public affairs in general—the unexampled prosperity of our cities, are circumstances which peculiarly mark our situation with indications of the Divine Benevolence towards us. In such a situation it is in a special manner, our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to ALMIGHTY GOD, and to implore him to continue and confirm the blessings we experience.

Deeply penetrated with this conviction, I GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the United States, do recommend to all religious societies and denominations, and to all persons whomsoever within the United States, to set apart and observe Thursday the nineteenth day of February next, as a Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer; and on that day to meet together, and render their sincere and hearty thanks to the Great Ruler of Nations, for the manifold and special mercies, which distinguish our lot as a nation; particularly for the possession of civil government which unites, and by their union establisheth liberty with order—for the preservation of our peace, foreign and domestic—or the favourable control which hath been given to a spirit of disorder, in the suppression of the late insurrection—and generally, for the prosperous course of our affairs, public and private; and at the same time, humbly and fervently to beseech the Kind Author of these blessings, graciously to protect them to us—to imprint on our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our obligations to him for them—to teach us rightly to estimate their inestimable value—to preserve us from the arrogance of prosperity, and from hazarding the advantages we enjoy by delusive pursuits—to dispose us to merit the continuance of his favours, by not abusing them, by our gratitude for them, and by a correspondent conduct as citizens and as men—to render this country more and more a safe and propitious asylum for the unfortunate of other countries—to extend among us true and useful knowledge—to diffuse and establish habits of sobriety, order, morality and piety; and finally, to impart all the blessings we possess, or ask for ourselves, to the whole family of mankind.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Seal of the United States of America, to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand. Done at the city of PHILADELPHIA, the fifth day of February, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the sixteenth.



*Geo. Washington.*

By the President,  
 EDMUND RAYBOLDS.

# General Thanksgiving.

BY THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
A PROCLAMATION.

**W**HEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God---to obey his will---to be grateful for his benefits---and humbly to implore his protection and favour: And whereas both Houses have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States, a DAY of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING and PRAYER, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"

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By the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES  
of AMERICA.

**A PROCLAMATION.**  
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**N**OW THEREFORE, I do recommend and assign  
Thursday the twenty-fifth day of November next,  
to be devoted by the people of these States, to the  
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beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is,  
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Collections of Maine Historical Society



By the HONOURABLE

**SPENCER PHIPS, Esq;**  
Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief, and vice His Majesty's Governor of the Massachusetts Bay in North America.

## A PROCLAMATION for a public THANKSGIVING.

**U**PON the Consideration of the established Powers, (in concert with the wisdom and assistance  
Dispositions of His Majesty's Council) and of the People in the Year 1711

**I** have thought fit, with the Advice of his Majesty's Council, and at the Desire of  
the Assembly in their present Session, to appoint Thursday the twenty-fifth day of Novem-  
ber next, to be observed as a Day of public Thanksgiving, first, out of Gratitude,  
heartily calling upon Almighty God and People to celebrate the same, for a Debate and  
thankful Commemoration of the great Goodness of Almighty GOD to a very sinful and  
unhappy People, particularly manifested in the Preservation of the persons of our  
sovereign King and Queen, both the Kings of their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales, the Prince  
of Denmark, the Duke, and the Princesses of the Royal Family, and in restoring His  
Majesty's British and Danish Colonies to us, after an intestine War of thirty Years, and  
granting His Majesty's Administration for the general Good of the People under his happy Go-  
vernment, and in granting, in many Instances, Quarters to his Majesty's Forces both  
by Sea and Land, in their Campaigns for the lowering his Majesty's Colonies and  
Subjects from the usual Incursions of their Enemies; In testimony to the  
Wisdom and Goodness of their merciful Providence, in restoring us to  
grant a Certificate of Health, and in keeping off that great and imminent Danger from  
us, by His Majesty's Council, and in affording us so plentiful a Harvest as to meet the Wants of  
the Earth, and in remarkably preserving our Colonies in the Year 1711, and  
both many other unnumbered Blessings which require our sincere and thankful Acknow-  
ledgements, and our entire Dependence, that we may thereby be led to an universal  
Repentance and Reformation: And hereby we are Prayed, to join our united Supp-  
lications to the Divine Majesty, who command Righteousness, and Judgment for the Gentiles,  
That he would graciously approve for Us, to direct and further the Constitutions and  
Reformation of the Government, in relation to the important Business engaged in for the  
Peace and Safety of his Majesty's Colonies, and direct all our military Operations  
to the accomplishing of this desirable End: And that it would please GOD to bless  
the happy Success which the Success shall hereafter be enjoyed, but that our humble  
thankfulness to the righteous Deity, at our blessed KING and QUEEN'S happy Coronation,  
the Peace of Peace, of the favour of whose Government we have then had to see Us.

**And all Justice Labour to observe on the said Day.**

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, the Twelfth day of November 1711, by the Trustees of the  
of the Bay of New-England, and His Majesty's Council, by the Order of GOD, Governor,  
James and John, KING, Deputies of the said King, &c.

By Order of His Majesty's Lieutenant-Governor,  
and the Council of the said Bay,  
J. Willoughby, Secy.

S. Phips.

**GOD Save the KING.**

Printed by John Draper, Printer in the Street, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, 1711.





By the President of the United States of America  
& Proclamation.

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the  
providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his  
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and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the  
"many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an  
"opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety  
and happiness."

Now therefore I do recommend and signify that the  
24<sup>th</sup> day of September next to be devoted by the People of these States to  
the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent author  
of all the good that was, that is, or that will be - that we may then  
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his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to  
their becoming a Nation - for the signal and manifold mercies, and the  
favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the  
course and conclusion of the late war - for the great degree of Tran-  
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constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly  
the national one now lately instituted - for the civil and religious  
liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring  
and suffering useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and  
various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may <sup>then</sup> unite in most humbly offering our  
prayers and supplications to the great Lord and ruler of the Universe  
and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions -  
to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our  
several and relative duties properly and punctually - to render our  
national government <sup>in keeping</sup> to all the people, <sup>in conformity</sup> being  
a government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully  
executed and obeyed - to protect and guide all Sovereigns and  
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bless them with good government, peace, and concord - to promote the  
knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease  
of science among them and us - and generally to grant unto all men  
- kind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New-York the third day  
of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

George Washington

THANKSGIVING DAY—1939

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A Proclamation

I, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Thursday, the twenty-third of November 1939, as a day of general thanksgiving.

More than three centuries ago, at the season of the gathering in of the harvest, the Pilgrims humbly paused in their work and gave thanks to God for the preservation of their community and for the abundant yield of the soil. A century and a half later, after the new Nation had been formed, and the charter of government, the Constitution of the Republic, had received the assent of the States, President Washington and his successors invited the people of the Nation to lay down their tasks one day in the year and give thanks for the blessings that had been granted them by Divine Providence. It is fitting that we should continue this hallowed custom and select a day in 1939 to be dedicated to reverent thoughts of thanksgiving.

Our Nation has gone steadily forward in the application of democratic processes to economic and social problems. We have faced the specters of business depression, of unemployment, and of widespread agricultural distress, and our positive efforts to alleviate these conditions have met with heartening results. We have also been permitted to see the fruition of measures which we have undertaken in the realms of health, social welfare, and the conservation of resources. As a Nation we are deeply grateful that in a world of turmoil we are at peace with all countries, and we especially rejoice in the strengthened bonds of our friendship with the other peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

Let us, on the day set aside for this purpose, give thanks to the Ruler of the Universe for the strength which He has vouchsafed us to carry on our daily labors and for the hope that lives within us of the coming of a day when peace and the productive activities of peace shall reign on every continent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 31st day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-nine, and of the Independence of the [SEAL] United States of America the one hundred and sixty-fourth.

By the President:  
CORDELL HULL  
Secretary of State.

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

[No. 2373]



By His EXCELLENCY

# John Taylor Gilman,

GOVERNOR of the STATE of NEW - HAMPSHIRE ;

## A Proclamation

### FOR A PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.

THE Sovereign LORD, and Benevolent Parent of the Universe, having been pleased to continue to the citizens of this State, the invaluable blessings of civil and religious liberty, so that there is none to molest or make us afraid when we would publickly assemble to worship him ; and the many unmeritted favors bestowed on us as a people, demanding our public acknowledgments and highest praise :

The Legislature have appointed *Thursday* the thirteenth day of *November* next, to be observed as a day of PUBLIC THANKSGIVING throughout this State, and I have thought fit, by and with the Advice of Council, to issue this Proclamation, exhorting Ministers and People of every denomination, religiously to dedicate said day, and to spend a reasonable proportion thereof in their respective places of public worship, calling to mind the many unmeritted favors we have experienced, and with hearts filled with gratitude, to praise the name of Almighty GOD, our Supreme and Bountiful Benefactor, as the free Giver of all Good which we enjoy.

In particular, that he hath been graciously pleased to prevent contagious and mortal disorders from spreading among us :—That health is so generally enjoyed throughout this State :—That the hope of the husbandman hath been so far realized, as that we are favored with a comfortable supply of the precious fruits of the field :—That we are so highly favored in the enjoyment of means for promoting useful knowledge : But above all, that the good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, is still continued among us, and for the hope we have of future happiness. And together with our thanksgiving, let us with humble and penitent hearts, implore pardon for our transgressions, and entreat the Father of Mercies, that he would be pleased to continue to us, the blessings we now enjoy, and bestow such favors as we may stand in need of :

That he would keep the Government of the United States, of the several States, and of this in particular, under his holy protection :—That our Rulers may be inspired with that wisdom, prudence and integrity which is necessary to direct them in the discharge of the duties of their respective stations, and with all the people, lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty :—That it would please GOD to over-rule the wars and tumults among nations, so as to subserve his own glory, and the peace, liberty and happiness of mankind :—That if it may be consistent with his holy will, a speedy end may be put to the wars on our frontiers, the opposition (now existing in some parts of particular States) to the laws and government of the United States, cease, and all further hostile measures be prevented.

That it would please the LORD our Creator, Preserver and Bountiful Benefactor, to compassionate the whole world of mankind :—That ignorance, superstition, hypocrisy, and every thing contrary to virtue, may be dispelled and done away :—That the divine charity of the gospel, may be more generally understood, and more universally practised :—That a true knowledge of the LORD may operate so powerfully on the minds of all, as to produce the most ardent love to him, and good will to our fellow men :—That there may be nothing to hurt or destroy, but all unite with grateful hearts in proclaiming, *The LORD reigneth let the Earth rejoice.*

*And it is recommended and expected, that all persons religiously abstain from all servile labour, and such recreations as are unbecoming the solemnity of the day.*

*Given at the Council-Chamber in Exeter, this, 29th day of September, in the year of our LORD, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-four ; and of the Sovereignty and Independence of the United States of America, the nineteenth.*

JOHN TAYLOR GILMAN.

*By His Excellency's Command, with Advice of Council.*

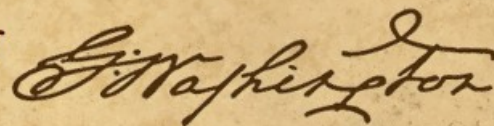
JOSEPH PEARSON, Secretary.

# General Thanksgiving,

BY THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
A PROCLAMATION.

**W**HEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God---to obey his will---to be grateful for his benefits---and humbly to implore his protection and favour : And whereas both Houses have, by their joint committee, requested me “to recommend to the people of the United States, a DAY of PUBLICK THANKSGIVING and PRAYER, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceable to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness :” Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation.

Given under my hand, at the  
city of New York, the 3d day of  
October, A.D. 1789.



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Storage Cabinet

Thanksgiving Day  
Mass  
1779

Thanksgiving Day Proclamations Mass

# PROCLAMATION.

**W**HEREAS it becomes us humbly to approach the Throne of Almighty GOD with Gratitude and Praise for the Wonders which his Goodness has wrought in conducting our Forefathers to this Western World, for his Protection to them and to their Posterity amid Difficulties and Dangers: For raising us their Children from deep Distress to be numbered among the Nations of the Earth; and for arming the Hands of just and mighty Princes in our Deliverance; and especially for that he hath been pleased to grant us the Enjoyment of Health, and so to order the revolving Seasons, that the Earth hath produced her Increase in Abundance; blessing the Labours of the Husbandmen, and spreading Plenty through the Land: That he hath prospered our Arms and those of our Ally, been a Shield to our Troops in the Hour of Danger, pointed their Swords to Victory, and led them in Triumph over the Bulwarks of the Foe: That he hath gone with those who went out into the Wilderness against the Savage Tribes: That he hath stayed the Hand of the Spoiler, and turned back his meditated Destruction: That he hath prospered our Commerce and given Success to those who sought the Enemy on the Face of the Deep; and above all that he hath diffused the glorious Light of the Gospel, whereby through the Merits of our gracious Redeemer we may become the Heirs of his eternal Glory.

Therefore,

**RESOLVED**, That it be recommended to the several States to appoint Thursday the Ninth Day of December next to be a Day of public and solemn Thanksgiving to Almighty GOD for his Mercies; and of Prayer for the continuance of his Favour and Protection to these United States; to beseech him that he would graciously be pleased to influence our public Councils, and bless them with Wisdom from on High with Unanimity, Firmness and Success; that he would go forth with our Hosts and crown our Arms with Victory; that he would grant to his Church the plentiful Effusions of divine Grace, and pour out his Holy Spirit on all Ministers of the Gospel; that he would bless and prosper the Means of Education and spread the Light of Christian Knowledge through the remotest Corners of the Earth; that he would smile upon the Labours of his People, and cause the Earth to bring forth her Fruits in Abundance; that we may with Gratitude and Gladness enjoy them; that he would take into his holy Protection our illustrious Ally, give him Victory over his Enemies, and render him signally great as the Father of his People and the Protector of the Rights of Mankind; that he would graciously be pleased to turn the Hearts of our Enemies and dispense the Blessings of Peace to contending Nations; that he would in Mercy look down upon us, pardon all our Sins and receive us into his Favour; and finally that he would establish the Independence of these United States upon the Basis of Religion and Virtue, and support and protect them in the Enjoyment of Peace, Liberty and Safety.

Done in Congress the Twentieth Day of October, in the Year of Our LORD One Thousand seven Hundred and Seventy Nine, and in the Fourth Year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Samuel Huntington, President.

Attest:

Charles Thompson, Secretary.

## State of Massachusetts-Bay.

COUNCIL - CHAMBER in BOSTON, November 3, 1779.

**AGREEABLE** to the above Recommendation of the Honorable CONTINENTAL CONGRESS, by the Advice of the COUNCIL, We have thought fit to appoint, and do hereby appoint THURSDAY the Ninth Day of December next, to be observed throughout this State as a Day of public THANKSGIVING and PRAISE: And we do hereby call upon Ministers and People of every Denomination religiously to observe the said Day accordingly.

By their Honors Order,  
JOHN AVERY, Dep<sup>y</sup> Sec<sup>y</sup>

- William Sever,
- Artemas Ward,
- Benjamin Greenleaf,
- Walter Spooner,
- Thomas Cushing,
- Samuel Adams,
- Benjamin White,
- Henry Gardner,
- Daniel Davis,
- Francis Dana,
- Oliver Prescott,
- Abraham Fuller,
- Samuel Niles,
- John Pitts,
- Aaron Wood.

### GOD save the UNITED STATES of AMERICA!

Hand 2201

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## THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

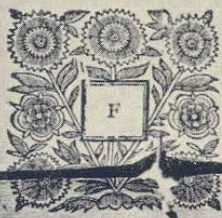


By the HONOURABLE

**William Dummer Esq;**

Lieutenant GOVERNOUR and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England* :

# A Proclamation for a General THANKSGIVING.



OR AS MUCH as amidst the various & awful Rebukes of Heaven with which we are righteously afflicted, We are still under the highest and most indispensable Obligations of Gratitude for the many Instances of the Divine Goodness in the course of the Year past, **Do especially**, That it has pleased Almighty GOD to prolong the Life of our most gracious Sovereign Lord the KING, Their Royal Highnesses the Prince & Princesses of **Wales**, and Their Illustrious Offspring, and to give an happy Increase to the Royal Family ; To **defeat** the wicked and detperate Conspiracies against His Majesty's Sacred Person and Rightful Government, and to Direct the Councils of the Nation to such Measures for the Suppressing & Punishing the same, as under GOD may prove the Means of their lasting Quiet & Security ; So far to succeed the Administrations of His Majesty's Government in this Province, To continue our inalienable Privileges, To restore Health to us, To give us great Plenty of the Fruits of the Earth, To Defeat in some Measure the repeated Attempts of the **Indian Enemy** against us, and to defend so many of our Frontier Plantations from their Rage & Fury, To guard our Sea-Coasts against the rapacious & bloody **Pirates**, and deliver many of them into the Hands of Justice ; And above all that He continues to us the precious Benefits & Liberties of the Gospel :

**I** have therefore thought fit, by and with the Advice of his Majesty's Council, to Order & Appoint that Thursday the Twenty-eighth of November Current be solemnly Observed as a Day of Publick **THANKSGIVING** throughout this Province, Exhorting both Ministers and People in their respective Assemblies to offer up their unfeign'd THANKS to Almighty **GOD** for these and all other His unmerited Favours ; And all Servile Labour is forbidden on the said Day.

Given at the Council Chamber in *Boston* the Sixth Day of November, 1723. In the Tenth Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord **GEORGE**, by the Grace of GOD of *Great Britain, France and Ireland*, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c.

By Order of the Honourable the Lieutenant Governour,  
by and with the Advice of the Council,

**Josiah Willard**, Secr.

**W. DUMMER.**

# GOD Save the King.

*BOSTON* : Printed by *B. Green*.

Lieut. GOVERNOUR and COUNCIL. 1723.

Acme Photo

NOVEMBER 28 IS SET AS THE THANKSGIVING DATE IN THIS, THE OLDEST KNOWN PROCLAMATION. IT WAS ISSUED BY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WILLIAM DUMMER OF MASSACHUSETTS IN 1723.