



GIVE THANKS

A time to bless
our God and our
fellow man.

THANKSGIVING



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WE ENTER INTO HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING

- Psalm 100:4 – “Enter into His Gates with Thanksgiving, And into His Courts with Praise.
- Be Thankful to Him, and bless His name.”
- As a country we have been celebrating this time of religious freedom, good-will with our neighbors and family as well as God’s abundant provision for His people!

THANKSGIVING/ AMERICA'S HISTORIC ROOTS

PILGRIMS & CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

- Since the Pilgrims landing in 1619, there had been difficult times for these settlers of the New World.
- These Pilgrims had worked on how to function as a Christian society; some ideas were successful, some were not!

EARLY FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

- In 1620, the Pilgrims decided to base their society on “Plato’s Republic.” The people all shared in the work as well as what was produced; land belonged to the community, not to individuals. This attempt to help boost production failed and food production fell.

WILLIAM BRADFORD



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NEW LEADERSHIP

- Governor Bradford made this remark in regards to this experiment in government, “The colonists collectively cleared and worked the land, but they brought forth neither the bountiful harvest they had hoped for, nor a spirit of shared and cheerful brotherhood.”

CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT PHILOSOPHY

- Jeremy Bradford went into action and began to give our parcels of land to each of the colonists to grow and produce what they wanted. They were free to trade with others and to make profit as they saw fit.
- The result was a bumper crop and enough food to put away for next year.

WILLIAM BRADFORD & THANKSGIVING

- After the initial trials of government, cultivating the land and getting through other various dangers; the colony was beginning to become prosperous.
- However, in 1623, a drought struck the area and crops were beginning to wilt and fail.
- William Bradford said, “A great drought from the 3rd week in May, till about the middle of July, without any rain and with great heat for the most part.” “We set apart a solemn day seek the Lord by humble and fervent prayer in this great distress.”

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RAIN!

- It was said that the day continued to be hot and dry until God answered with rain! It wasn't a strong thunderstorm or with great wind, but a good, gentle rain which soaked the ground and gave life to their crops.
- The Indians who resided with the colonists were greatly impressed with this display of goodness from the Pilgrim's God. One of those Natives (Hobbamock) in fact was converted to faith in Jesus Christ because of it.

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- In times of old, the ancient Hebrews were commanded by God to set up memorials to remind future generations of how great was their God and how much he cared and loved them.
- We do the same in this blessed land too. We remind ourselves, our loved ones and our fellow Americans of God's favor in this country of ours.
- We are still so blessed to live in a land of such abundance, goodwill and the ability to believe and worship Jesus without fear.

By the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES
of AMERICA.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

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.”