

# Remembering the Call

Fasting & Prayer in Maine



Official Proclamations calling for  
Fasting, Prayer, Thanksgiving and Praise  
From Maine Governors

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## Foreword

There is a battle being waged for the soul of Maine. It is clearly a spiritual battle.

*“our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12)*

Any expectation we have for a renewed culture in Maine or even for a slowing of the moral decline must be built on a foundation of massive prayer efforts. That is the only battleground where we can match and exceed the resources of the enemy. There should be no confusion, we must engage in the battle for our culture primarily through repentance and prayer. The forces of darkness, rampant and nearly unrestrained in our culture, will only be withstood and overcome if the people of God live in repentance and righteousness and are led to call on the Name of the Lord for a spiritual awakening in our day.

You are humbly invited to take the following action:

1. Renew (or begin) a personal commitment to earnestly seek the Lord in prayer, repentance, spiritual renewal and engagement in the battle for the soul of Maine.
2. Call upon your church to join in prayer for the spiritual awakening of His Church in the State of Maine.
3. Stand with others in prayer and united action for issues of spiritual urgency for the Church and our State.
4. Actively encouraging others in the State of Maine to join in prayer and action.

## Restoring the Fast in Maine

In his call for Fasting and Prayer, Governor Morrill quoted Jonah 3:5, *“The people believed in God and proclaimed a fast”*. The context was very relevant in 1858 and remains so today. It is a statement about the people of Nineveh, after they received a warning from the prophet Jonah. God was displeased with the unrighteousness of the city and was about to send judgment upon them. Upon hearing the message, the people chose repentance and called for fasting and prayer. The king of Nineveh understood the heart of the people and issued a proclamation for a time of fasting. As a result, God *“relented concerning the calamity”*.

In one of the proclamations you will read in this little book, Joshua Chamberlain, calling for a day of “Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer”, wrote: *“And I earnestly request the people of this State to devote the day to the serious duties it enjoins; that by meditation, penitence and prayer, and recognizing our utter need of His saving power in Christ, we may so humble ourselves before God, as to be spared the chastisement which our sins deserve, and obtain the blessings of His grace upon ourselves, our country, and our fellow men.”*

“Fast Days” were a common occurrence in the early days of New England, often observed with a sermon, abstinence from secular activities, and at least partial abstinence from eating. But the accompanying ceremonies or traditions were never a goal in themselves. The purpose was to evaluate the heart and soul of the culture. And evaluation often revealed the need for individual and collective repentance when culture was found to be wandering from the God who gave this nation life. By the late 1800’s the observance of a fast day seemed to have lost much of its original meaning and the tradition was discontinued in Maine sometime in the 1890s. But it is not necessary for such a rich and meaningful tradition to become the victim of mere ritual or apathy. It need not die among the spiritual leaders of Maine. We do not need an official proclamation from a Governor to know our need and our duty. What began in the Church must be renewed in the Church.

*“Let the priests, who minister before the Lord, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them say, “Spare Your people, O Lord. Do not make Your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ Then the Lord will be jealous for His land and take pity on His people.” –Joel 2:17-18*

Here in Maine, we are nearly out of time and find ourselves almost completely surrounded by opposing forces more numerous and more sophisticated than we are. We are quickly running out of options. The last two thousand years of world history have taught us that the only mechanism for turning a state away from the brink of destruction is a spiritual awakening. Unrighteousness in a nation or state displeases God. His will for Maine is righteousness in the land (Proverbs 14:34), and His vehicle for righteousness is still His Church.

After listing the sins of Israel in Isaiah's day, God says, "He went looking for a man." (Isaiah 59:16) There are many Christians in Maine today who sit passively, in the vain hope that God will simply see the darkness in our land and send light. Jesus sees our plight and expects us to do something about it. The verse says that God was astonished that He found no one who was willing to intercede! God sees the injustice and unrighteousness, wants to revive His people, and is looking for someone to stand in the gap to intercede.

It is time for the pastors and churches of our state to repent and put the altars of prayer back in our lives and in the house of the Lord. We may be on the verge of a spiritual awakening in our state. But we, the Church of Jesus, must begin by repenting of our own sins and calling on the Name of the Lord.

If this little book of Proclamations serves as a reminder of what was once the common expectation of our culture, the efforts will be well spent. It is offered with the prayer that Maine's Christians will be encouraged to humble ourselves, repent of our own sin, and pray for a revival of the Church of Jesus that will heal our land (2Chronicles 7:14).

## **About the Proclamations**

The book contains dozens of official Proclamations issued by former Governors of the State of Maine. For many years, it was customary for the Governor to call for days of fasting and prayer, usually in the spring of the year. Likewise, it has been a custom to proclaim a day in the fall as a day of thanksgiving and praise. The language used in the proclamations is very revealing. In an age when people are confused about the relation of church and state, we thought it appropriate to reprint these proclamations. These Proclamations do not carry any special authorization for prayer. They do, however reflect a recognition of the importance of acknowledging God and cultivating the habits of prayer, praise and thanksgiving in the lives of citizens. It is in that spirit that they are reprinted here.

May God cast His blessing over the great state of Maine and unite our voices in songs of thanksgiving to the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Bob Emrich

## **A Proclamation**

Whereas it is the duty of rational beings to acknowledge the wisdom of the Creator, and the beneficence of his providence, it is therefore not less the dictate of reason than piety to worship that Supreme Power and Perfect Goodness, which ordains in wisdom the diversified conditions of men. Yet more emphatically is it the duty of a people, in whose condition, like that of the citizens of this State, a benevolent Providence has been pleased to grant so many favors, with so few of the evils, which usually fall to the lot of men, publicly and unitedly to acknowledge, by every expression of grateful veneration, the mercies of that Being who has distinguished them by such peculiar and signal favors.

I, therefore, William King, by the advice of the Council, and in conformity with the usage of our ancestors, who have left us so many examples of moral wisdom and rational piety, do appoint Thursday, the thirtieth day of November next, to be observed by the good citizens of this State, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise; and I do exhort them to assemble in their respective places of public worship, and to unite in devout ascriptions of praise to that Providence, which has signalized them by so many favors; -

That we are blessed with a system of Government, founded on the natural rights of men, and wisely adapted to maintain the peace and order of society, to preserve our liberties, to promote the general happiness and to diffuse the advantages of education and useful knowledge among all ranks of people:

That with the inestimable blessings of a pure and holy faith, we enjoy the advantages of religious freedom and universal toleration; and while the various religious sects divide from each other in their speculations on obtuse points of theology, uncontrolled by any power but that to which they all owe obedience, all may unite under the great moral precepts of religion, in the harmony of Christian love:

That while we see other nations involved in alarming confusions, and divided in acrimonious factions by the domestic dissention of their rulers, or struggling with generous devotion to refrain the mischief's of a long period of hereditary misrule, or reclaiming with violence the rights, which had been by violence usurped and laying the foundation of civil liberty and national prosperity in the tears and blood of the brave and good, we behold in this Country a people prosperous in their industry and happy under rulers of their own choice, and laws of their own making, and in the midst of present tranquility gladdened with the prospect of a lengthened period of happiness and repose:

That while other nations, and some of our sister States, have been during the present year visited with distressing and desolating sickness, to the people of this State, it has been a season of general health:

That the treasures of the great deep have rewarded the diligence of our fishermen;

That commerce, left free to the enterprise of our merchants, and wisely regulated as it relates to foreign nations, has been prosecuted with increasing success; and that the labors of the husbandman have, by a fruitful and salubrious season, been crowned with plenty.

And while our grateful recollections dwell on the undeserved mercies which we have received may we not forget that all human virtue, like all human happiness is imperfect; may humble ourselves before the perfections of that Being, whom we have so often offended and with praises for His manifold kindness, join our fervent supplications that we may in the future so live as to be more worthy of His favor; and that by uniting to the virtues of good citizens, the Christian graces of meekness, faith and charity, the people of this State may continue to bring down on themselves the blessings of that providence which has hitherto distinguished them among the nations of the world by such peculiar mercies.

### **A Proclamation**

The deductions of reason, not less than the precepts of religion, make it the duty of dependent and accountable beings to acknowledge with reverence the superintending Providence of Almighty God, to humble themselves before Him under a solemn sense of their weakness and imperfection, and to implore His mercy and blessing with contrite hearts, without which their hopes are vain, and their labors fruitless.

I therefore, have thought fit, by and with the advice of Council, to appoint Thursday, the twelfth day of April next, to be observed by the good people of this State, as a day of Humiliation and Prayer; and the people of all religious denominations are requested to abstain from all labor and recreation inconsistent with the religious solemnities of the day, and to assemble in their respective places of public worship, and unitedly to supplicate the favor of their Supreme Ruler;

that He would in mercy forgive them their sins and errors, and not requite them according to their merits, but according to His own parental kindness;

that He would prosper the industry of the husbandman and cause the earth to yield a plentiful increase;

that our fisheries may continue to be prosecuted with success;

that a gainful trade may reward the enterprise of those who are engaged in mercantile pursuits;

that He would bless our colleges, academies and schools, and make them instruments of diffusing useful learning and pure morality;

that the ministers of religion may instill into the minds of their people the love of order and peace, and teach them by example, that a difference in unessential speculative doctrines should make no difference in the bonds of Christian charity;

that He would bless the governments of this State and the United States; and that they be administered with wisdom and

moderation and preserve the peace of the country and harmony of the union.

And while we approach the throne of grace for a blessing on our country, may we not be forgetful of those favors by which we have been peculiarly distinguished: that peace and plenty have been within our borders; that under a gentle and steady administration of government, our rights are protected by the calm operation of equitable laws; that peace is preserved with foreign nations and harmony among ourselves; and that under the blessing of Divine Providence we may look with confidence to a protracted period of uninterrupted prosperity and undisturbed repose.

Governor John Fairfield – 1842

**A Proclamation For A  
Day Of Public Humiliation, Fasting And Prayer**

There is a beautiful propriety in the observance of customs instituted by our Pilgrim Fathers, independently of their object. It may be regarded as a respected and affectionate tribute both to their memory and as tending to keep bright some of the interesting links that connect us with those remarkably endowed and noble men.

Our annual fast, however, involves additional and higher considerations. When we reflect upon our manifold sins – how far we fall short of a faithful fulfillment of the duties and obligations resulting from our relation to God and which the reception and enjoyment of His blessings impose upon us, we see abundant cause for deep humility, sincere penitence and need of Divine forgiveness; “humiliation, fasting and prayer,” become a matter, not only of obvious propriety, but of moral necessity.

At the opening season of the year also, how forcibly are we reminded of our dependence and of the indisputableness of God’s blessing to crown our various labors and enterprises with success.

We may therefore, while humbly acknowledging past errors and seeking their forgiveness, unitedly present our supplications to the throne of Grace for all needed future good.

In accordance therefore with a long established and venerated custom, I have appointed, by the advice of the Executive Council, Thursday, the seventh day of April next, as a day for public humiliation, fasting and prayer. And the good people of this State are requested to assemble on that day in their respective places of public worship for the usual religious services of the occasion; and to abstain from all labor and recreation inconsistent therewith.

Governor Wm. G. Crosby - 1853

**A Proclamation For A  
Day Of Public Humiliation, Fasting And Prayer**

In conformity with a time honored usage, and by advice of the Executive Council, I appoint Thursday, the fourteenth day of April next to be observed as a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer.

The daily manifestation of the goodness and mercy of God should fill man's heart with gratitude and his lips with praise. What shall we render unto Him for all His benefits?

In view of His strength and our weakness, His long enduring kindness and patience toward us and our ingratitude and forgetfulness of Him, it becomes us as individuals and a people to acknowledge our dependence upon Him, to confess our unworthiness of the manifold blessings we are continually receiving at His hand, and to ask His guidance and blessing in all our enterprises, public and private. The remembrance of our sins and errors should lead us to repentance and renew and strengthen the desire to lead lives more acceptable in His sight and more devoted to His service.

To this end I invite the people of this State to refrain from their ordinary avocations on the day set apart for public humiliation, fasting and prayer, to assemble in their respective places of public worship, there to bow in deep humility before Almighty God, acknowledging their individual and national transgressions of His just and holy laws, laying upon His altar the sacrifice of contrite hearts, to implore His pardoning mercy for the past; His sustaining strength for the future. And may the meditations of the day and the services of the sanctuary prepare us all for a true and more faithful service of Him in the life that now is, and a happier and holier existence in the life that is to come.

Governor William G. Crosby - 1853

**A Proclamation  
For A Day Of Public Thanksgiving And Praise**

With the advice of the Executive Council I appoint the seventeenth day of November next to be observed by the people of this state as a day of public Thanksgiving and Praise.

We are again approaching the season of the year which has long been marked by the renewal of New England's "Family Festival". It again draws near to us laden with precious memories and joyous anticipation. It calls upon us to gather up and reunite the scattered links of the chain which binds us together-land and home. The recollections of childhood and the more hallowed associations of maturer life cannot fail to ensure the observance of this time-honored festival.

But amidst the enjoyments and the festivities to which the day gives birth, gratitude to Him who affords us the occasion and the opportunity for this public expression of Thanksgiving and Praise should occupy the chief place in our hearts. Peace and plenteousness still reign within our borders. The pestilence that walketh in darkness and the destruction that wasteth at noonday have not visited us. Blessings innumerable have marked each day as it passed and the year is crowned with His mercy. For all these mercies and blessings, let us as individuals and a people be thankful.

Surrounded by the comfort of life, the endearments of family and home let not the poor, the homeless, or the stranger within our gate be forgotten. Let the solitary heart be gladdened and the bereaved heart be comforted. Let the naked be clothed, the hungry fed and the oppressed be set free. Let our gratitude to God be manifested in works of love and charity to man, that the hearts of all may be filled with Thanksgiving and all lips utter His praise.

Governor William G . Crosby - 1854

### **A Proclamation For A Day Of Thanksgiving And Praise**

Another year crowned with mercy and goodness from on high is rapidly approaching its termination. Success far beyond our deserts has attended our various business enterprises, the labors of seed-time have their reward in the fruits of harvest, the pestilence which has desolated so many homes in other lands has not visited us. We are still in the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty, and peace reigns throughout our wide spread borders.

Every passing day of the passing year has furnished abundant occasion for individual gratitude to God for blessings conferred, yet in view of his great goodness and showing mercy towards us as a people it becomes us to unite our lips and hearts in rendering to him our annual tribute of Thanksgiving and Praise.

I do therefore, with advice of the Executive Council appoint Thursday the thirtieth day of November next to be observed throughout this State as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God for the many blessings he has bestowed upon us and I invite the people of the State to observe the day thus set apart in the manner hallowed by time honored usage.

Governor Anson P. Morrill - 1855

## **A Proclamation For A Day Of Public Thanksgiving And Praise**

With the advice of the executive Council, I hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-second day of November next, to be observed in this State as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

Another year has rolled by, and we are again, through Infinite Goodness, enjoying the rich fruits of an abundant autumnal harvest. The labors of the husbandman have been bountifully rewarded, and the industry of our citizens generally favored and blest. Health has been uninterrupted by pestilence, and the destroying angel, that has so fearfully afflicted other communities in sister States, has, under Providence, mercifully spared the people of this Commonwealth.

For these, and the innumerable blessings we are enjoying, let our hearts be devoutly thankful.

From every altar let Thanksgiving and Songs of Praise ascend to that God from whom these blessings flow. Let this Festival be improved by the people of this state for the advancement of the cause of Humanity, Virtue and Christianity. Let the poor and the oppressed be remembered and alleviated, and the day be wholly spent as wisdom shall direct and God approve and bless.

Governor Samuel Wells – 1856

**A Proclamation For A Day Of  
Public Humiliation, Fasting And Prayer**

In pursuance of a usage, established and continued by our patriotic, faithful and pious ancestors, with the advice of the council, I do hereby appoint Thursday, the seventeenth day of April next, to be observed, in this State, as day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer; and the people are requested to abstain from all unnecessary labor, and from all recreations inconsistent with the duties of the day and to assemble in their several places of public worship, for the performance of those acts of devotion appropriate to the occasion.

It is our duty to humble ourselves before our Maker; for our numerous and aggravated sins; for our disobedience to His commands, the observance of which, prescribed for our highest good, would render us happy here and happy hereafter; for our disregard of His loving kindness; our alienation from Him, and forgetfulness of Him.

Upon the return of spring, after the departure of a long and severe winter, when the fruits of the earth are nearly consumed, in our helplessness and dependence, it is especially incumbent upon us to look to the never failing Source of life and sustenance, to Him, whose hand both feeds and clothes us, and by fasting and contemplation prepare our minds for a clearer perception of the goodness and benevolence of Him, who constantly preserved us amid numerous perils and dangers, and whose voice may be heard in our hearts, inciting us to turn to Him, and prepare ourselves for participation in the unspeakable joys of an immortal life.

Let us all unite on that day, in offering up our sincere, devout and earnest supplications to the Giver of all good, that He would continue His protection to our State and Nation, and be our God as He has been the God of our fathers;

that He would protect our free and happy government, founded in self-denial and suffering, not only from foreign aggression, but from those who would destroy it by revolution and civil war; that He would give to us wise laws, and just and upright rulers; that He would change our hearts from the love of evil to the love and practice of good, and inspire in us true and genuine religion, and a sacred regard to justice, temperance and truth; that He would foster and give success to all our industrial pursuits and command the earth to yield its increase and products, in reward to the labors of the husbandman, crowning them with fruitful seasons and abundant harvests.

And while we present our warm desires for the temporal happiness and prosperity of ourselves, our friends and neighbors, let us pray, that at last, when we shall leave all earthly things and the places that now know us, we may all, through our blessed Redeemer and Savior, enter into dwellings not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

## **A Proclamation For A Day Of Public Praise And Thanksgiving**

In accordance with a venerated usage, established in the first settlement of the country, by our virtuous and pious ancestors and subsequently continued by their descendants, I do, with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint Thursday, the twentieth day of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise, and recommend to the people of this State to assemble on that day in their usual places of public worship, and return their sincere and unfeigned thanks to Almighty God, for the innumerable favors and blessings, which he bestowed upon them, not only during the past year, but for the whole period of their existence.

Let us thank him for this constant benevolence and loving kindness; for a bounteous harvest and rich increase of flocks and hands, matching glad the hearts of the laborer and husbandman, that no fatal pestilence or wasting disease in any unusual degree, has deprived us of our friends and relatives, but a pure and invigorating atmosphere has brought to us health and strength; that He has fastened the various pursuits of industry, and that the earth, the air, and the sea have yielded to man the tribute, which He has imposed upon them.

Let us thank Him, that our National Constitution, the foundations of our free institutions, and the rich legacy of our fathers, has thus far been preserved for us; that the American people have been endowed with a practical ability, which has enabled them to found a great and powerful republic, holding a high rank among the nations of the earth and that although at times our political fabric has experienced the rude and violent shocks of conflicting opinions, reason has never failed to resume its sway over folks and prejudice, and peace and quiet have uniformly followed the deepest incitement

Let us praise the Lord because He is “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy,” and because His goodness

to us is immeasurable and boundless. He is truly our Maker and Father and we, the work of His hands dependent children, are bound to yield to Him a ready and willing obedience, a warm and filial affection, that we may promote our own happiness and fulfill the purposes of our creation.

Let us praise Him for redemption from sin, and that he has opened the way by which every creature may enjoy a happy and glorious immortality, in an eternal world, where virtue and goodness will be protected, and wickedness deprived of its power.

And while we offer to Him the homage of grateful hearts for the abundance He has given to us, may we not be unmerciful, that every man is our brother and has a claim upon our sympathies and that we should be active to relieve the wants of the poor, and the sufferings of the afflicted.

Governor Joseph Williams - 1857

## **A Proclamation For A Day Of Public Humiliation, Fasting And Prayer**

A contemplation of the devout and earnest characteristics of our forefathers fills the mind with grateful recollections, and deepens our reverence for all that was commendable in the customs which marked their times. In a spirit of filial admiration we would at this season of the year call to mind their habitual reliance upon Divine Providence for all temporal as well as spiritual blessings, and recognize that expressive sign of their unfaltering trust in God which appears in their strict observance of the solemn Fast.

For the sake of honoring their example and of seeking the good which may be derived from consecrating a secular day to meditation and the humbling ourselves together before the Lord, I do hereby with the advice of the Council appoint Thursday the twenty third day of April next to be observed as a day of Public Humiliation Fasting and Prayer. And I invite the people of this state to abstain on that day from all unnecessary labor and to devote themselves at their altars of public and private worship to the important uses for which the day is thus set apart.

Pervaded with a sense of our own insignificance in this theatre of God's handiwork and impressed with the vanity and futility which enter so largely into the record of human life, let us humble ourselves before our Maker and mourn that we too have proved so recreant to the unselfish principles which should be the glory of a truly Christian Commonwealth.

Let us not fail to plead for a wider spread of that sentiment of brotherhood which would make neighbors of all mankind, and for the removal of every form of intolerance, whether social, religious, or political. Let us invoke for every human being the inestimable blessings of liberty, intelligence and domestic happiness. Let us pray that health and plenty may be the common lot and that peace, contentment and pure religion may prevail throughout our borders.

And as citizens of a confederated Republic whose constitution was avowedly adopted to establish justice and to secure the blessings of liberty, let us on this day of public humiliation confess our remissness in the years that are past, which has imperiled the very objects for which our national government was formed. In an hour like this when “*Judgment is turned away backward and Justice standeth afar off when Truth is fallen in the street and Equality cannot enter*”, let us deplore before God the national decadence from those inspired and inspiring principles which were cherished by the fathers of the Republic and our own individual folly in suffering any transitory interests of state or national policy to usurp the place of the equality of man.

And may we all by our daily lives evince our faith in that divine truth that the sum of human duty, whether as men, as patriots or as Christians, is to love God with all the heart and our neighbor as ourselves.

Governor Lot M. Morrill - 1858

**A Proclamation For A  
Day Of Public Humiliation, Fasting And Prayer**

“The people believed in God and proclaimed a fast”

Our Forefathers, emancipated from the thralldom of observances, and striving for communion with the Infinite Being and Heavenly Parent, in a truly catholic temper, sought to express a Worship, through the forms of a Christian Commonwealth, which should recognize God as the central idea, and the will of God as at once the criterion of justice and source of temporal and spiritual attainment, and in the exercise of this sentiment “proclaimed ” an Annual Fast.

Responsive to their religious sense and honoring their example, and conscious, moreover, that a grateful recollection of the Divine Goodness is the first human obligation, I do hereby with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday, the fifteenth day of April next, to be observed as a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer.

As on this day we repair to our respective places of Worship, in view of the Infinite Goodness and our own short comings, may we do so with a deep sense of our unworthiness, in penitence for our sins, and in submission to the Divine will; and while, by abstinent observance, we interrupt the ordinary habits of life, stop the flow of business and pleasure, deprecate the existence of present ill, and that which may fall upon us and our beloved country, and supplicate for mercy and forgiveness, may each, by meditation, self examination and prayer, attain to a recognition of the intrinsic claims which faith and duty have upon reason and conscience.

May a devout contemplation, whether of violated physical laws, of moral neglect and transgression, of the incidents of home, the affairs of public or private life, or the procedures and conduct of government, and the transactions of business, reveal things in their

true relations, and awaken a conviction of moral want, of the need of repentance and of Divine Love.

And so may we learn the purport of the practical lessons of human diversity – the unity of humanity – that the same great trials come to all, that all are the subjects of the same great plan; and learn also to cherish a lively interest in human nature in all its conditions, feel our selfishness and prejudice softened, a generous charity flowing alike to all, and come to be conscious of the spiritual ties which connect all and of the Infinite Fatherhood that encircles us all.

Governor Lot M. Morrill - 1858

**A Proclamation For A Day Of  
Public Thanksgiving And Praise.**

With the advice of the executive Council, I appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

The continual bounties and manifold mercies of a superintending and all-wise Providence, call for expressions of unfeigned gratitude and devout praise. The infinite Father, eternal Source of all good hath crowned the year with abundance; let every heart grow with grateful love. A God of love, the Fountain of all mercies, hath averted the causes of public distress; let all unite in songs of adoration.

All nature proclaims the goodness and glory of God, maker of heaven and earth; How fit that His intelligent offspring should acknowledge Him, in Thanksgiving and Praise, as the Author of all needful blessings, and their dependence on His forbearance and loving kindness.

Especially doth it become us as a people, to join in public celebration of the Divine Goodness for the innumerable blessings vouchsafed at every period of natural existence: for succor in the struggle of our fathers for independence; for guidance in laying the foundation of free institutions; for fostering care in their infancy; for preservation amid perils internal and external, and for that paternal favor which has attended our country's progress from weakness and dependence to prosperity and power; and to render thanks moreover, to the great ruler of the earth, for the precious boon of civil and religious liberty, for the multiplied agencies of social and political amelioration and the means of spiritual improvement.

**A Proclamation For A  
Day Of Public Humiliation, Fasting And Prayer**

With the advice of the Executive Council, I hereby designate Thursday, the twenty-first day of April next, to be observed by the people of this State, in accordance with a venerated usage, as a day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

A sense of dependence upon the Supreme Being and a consciousness of unmerited mercies from an All-Gracious Benefactor, pervade all rational beings and should inspire a devout spirit of penitence and supplication. States, as individuals, are alike dependent upon the same Guardian Providence, a public expression of whose submission to the will of the Sovereign Ruler of the earth becomes them as Christian Commonwealths.

As on this day of recognized Public Worship, are contemplated the exalted perfections and tender mercies of the Heavenly Parent, may emotions of humility fill all hearts; existing in His boundless love, may generous sympathies for man be quickened; the recipients of His impartial grace, may a sense of equity govern the ways of all ; paying adoration to Him "who sends his rain upon the just and upon the unjust," may all be purified from every taint of intolerance.

And especially, as homage and praise ascend to the Common Father for His forbearance towards our beloved country, may all unite to deprecate the vicissitudes of public disorder which mar its glory, all obedience to the Divine precepts of Christianity, may personal and public ills be averted, the favor of Heaven secured, and the blessings of civil and religious liberty perpetuated.

## **A Proclamation For a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise**

As the season of the time honored Thanksgiving Festival approaches the close of another year full of the blessings of an All Bounteous Providence, religion and patriotism enjoin the duty of public demonstrations of gratitude and praise to Almighty God, the Creator and Preserver of the Universe and the merciful Benefactor of man.

For constant care and favor to us as a people, in the establishment, growth and development of republican institutions, securing to all the enjoyment of equal privileges and personal rights, is due the homage of loyal and thankful hearts.

For life and health, sunshine and showers, the plentiful fruits of the earth, for social tranquility and domestic happiness, the means of universal education, religious instruction and consolation, it becomes all to unite in fervent expressions of praise and thanksgiving to the author and Giver of all good.

I do, therefore, with the advice of the Executive Council, and in reverence to an established and venerated usage, designate Thursday, the Twenty-Fourth day of November next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise; and I recommend its observance by the people of the State; that abstaining from all secular employments, they assemble according to their religious customs and render unto the Heavenly Parent, the Source whence flows all our manifold blessings, the worship of grateful and obedient hearts, forgetting not at His altar, the cause of the poor, the neglected and the oppressed; and supplicating a continuance of the divine favor, as Christians and patriots, let us unitedly implore that an inextinguishable love of civil and religious liberty may be kept alive in the hearts of the people, an ardent devotion to the independence of the States and the perpetuity of the federal Union: and above all, that a generous philanthropy, imbued with the spirit of Christianity, may pervade all classes and incite all to the duty of

cheerful and full obedience to the divine precepts of the great Christian Master; and so may our beloved Commonwealth be permitted to advance in the new era of social and political progress, see violence and wrong everywhere retreating; and witness the prevalence of a genuine civilization.

Governor Lot M. Morrill – 1860

**A Proclamation For A Day Of  
Public Humiliation Fasting And Prayer**

With the advice of the Executive Council, I hereby designate Thursday, the fifth day of April next, as a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer.

The conception of a day of homage to the Supreme Ruler of Nations, in its relations to temporal affairs, in which rational and dependent beings may offer the oblations of grateful hearts to the universal God and Father for His unceasing presence, guidance and providence, springs from the obvious relations of man to his Creator and Preserver; and social worship in the congregation with one heart and voice, from a common brotherhood, duties and sympathies.

Hallowed by a time honored usage, let the day, by universal adoption, be a season, the ordinary avocations of life suspended, when the thoughts shall be turned to the designs of being as a sacred trust; when everywhere, throughout our borders, dependent and penitent man shall offer his tribute of admiration to his Maker and Benefactor, and, seeking favor be pervaded by that charity which inclines him to his fellow man to do him good: and moreover to offer supplications to that Providence, the dependence of all, for the continuance of life and health, of domestic happiness and social tranquility and for preservation from public calamities: and to beseech Him to inspire with wisdom and a high sense of the public good, our national councils to strengthen the bond of affection between all the people and impress them with a solemn regard for the national faith and honor; and especially that He will confound the councils of the enemies of the Union of these States and increase the numbers and zeal of the friends of liberty; and vouchsafe to all mankind the precious form of civil and religious rights and privileges, the knowledge and the hopes of Christianity.

Governor Lot. M. Morrill - 1860

## **A Proclamation For a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise**

At this season of abounding plenteousness, a hymn of praise arises from the myriad voiced creation to that Invisible Power in whose plentitude and beneficence are the renewals of the earth and the mysterious development of the buried grain.

*“All Thy works praise Thee, O Lord.”*

How fitting that sentiment and dependent beings should offer oblations of praise and thanksgiving to their Creator and bountiful Benefactor, and bow in adoration before the Supreme Ruler and Judge of the Universe; and especially at stated periods as the years revolve, come together in the great congregation as members of the same human family to render thanks to the Heavenly Parent for His manifold mercies, for the abundance that crowns the labors of the husbandman, for the success of the industrial pursuits of all classes of the people, for innumerable personal and social blessings, for life, health, order and security, and above all for the inestimable boon of civil and religious liberty and the hopes of Christianity.

I do therefore, with the advice of the Executive Council and in accordance with a venerated usage, designate Thursday, the Twenty-ninth day of November next as a day of public Thanksgiving and Praise.

May all the people, on this day bring unto the Great Giver the offerings of penitent and grateful hearts; and mindful of His innumerable favors, let us as patriots and Christians, in a spirit of universal charity, implore the pardon of all our offenses the continuance of His support and protection to all portions of our beloved country, and that He will inspire in all a spirit of patriotic devotion and strengthen the bonds of affection between all our citizens.

Governor Israel Washburn, Jr. - 1861

**A Proclamation For A Day Of  
Public Humiliation, Fasting And Prayer.**

In conformity to a venerated custom, I hereby, with the advice of the council, appoint Thursday, the eleventh day of April next, to be observed in this state as a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer; and the people of all religious persuasions are requested to abstain from all labor and recreation inconsistent with a suitable recognition of the solemnities of the day, and to assemble in their several places of public worship, for the performance of appropriate religious services.

With a deep consciousness of our many infirmities and shortcomings, of our want of faith and patience and charity, of our coldness and indifference, of our manifold neglect of duty towards our fellow men and to our country, of the positive wrongs in thought and act which we have daily committed, let us bow ourselves in humility and contrition, and let us resolve that with the aid of the Divine Being in whom, and to whom, and through whom are all things, we will be more faithful, earnest, humane, just and true, than we have hitherto been.

May our submission to his will, be unrestrained and perfect, and our reliance upon his providence be constant and unflinching.

For the goodly inheritance which we enjoy and for the pleasant places where our lot has been cast, for the mountains and the sea which are before us and around us, and whose voices were ever the voices of liberty; for the health and strength that dwell beneath our northern skies; for the bounties of the field; for the generous rewards of honest industry; for the comforts of our homes and the delights of friendship; for peace; for the means of intellectual, social and religious improvement; for the hope of immortality; for the discipline, responsibilities and trials of life, which are the appointed conditions of moral and spiritual growth, let us pour out

our hearts in gratitude and thankfulness to the Author and Giver of all good.

For the blessings of civil, political and religious liberty, which have been vouchsafed to us in such liberal measure, and for the matchless government by which they have been secured and protected, let our unceasing acknowledgments and our highest sense of obligation be expressed in the daily practice of those virtues from which their existence is inseparable.

And may our faith in the eternal verities, that whatever is highest upon earth is most human, that whatever is strongest is most just, and whatever is truest is most permanent, be so clear and triumphant as to direct and control our actions and purposes in all the circumstances and vicissitudes of our lives.

Governor Israel Washburn, Jr. - 1861

## **A Proclamation For A Day Of Public Thanksgiving And Praise**

In this time of our country's affliction, and amidst the responsibilities and trials occasioned by the unnatural and unprovoked civil war in which it has been involved by wicked and desperate men, let us illustrate our loyalty to the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe by a cheerful submission to His will, and an unflinching trust in the wisdom of His Providence, and the beneficence of His purposes; let us bless and praise Him for His goodness and loving kindness to us His children. He orders all things well.

Let us thank Him for the innumerable favors and benedictions which He has showered upon us, manifesting His continual presence and fatherly care, and picturing even the most serious habit of our lives with so many golden threads of happiness: for the inestimable boon of health which he has so liberally bestowed; for the genial skies which He has made to smile upon us, filling the garner of the husbandman, and "affording all manner of store;" for the educational, charitable and religious institutions of our beloved Commonwealth; for its equal and just laws; and its countless homes of peace and affection.

And let us rejoice that we have a country worthy of our devotion and love; that the government of the fathers, established to secure the blessings of liberty and justice, and to promote to common welfare, still stands firm and fast in the intelligence and patriotism of the people; that He has given them grace and strength to defend and preserve it against the machinations of the enemies of freedom and humanity; that, rising above the petty divisions and the importunate and miserable clamors of ordinary times, they have been made one in a holy zeal and an inflexible purpose to preserve the wisest and best government ever vouchsafed to man.

Let us bless God that long and uninterrupted years of material prosperity have not been permitted to sap the virtue or waste the strength of the people, and that when the hour of trial came, and

the fruits of many generations were to be saved or lost on the field of battle, the practice of exalted patriotism became at once the rule, and not the exception, among them, and men of all professions, trades, occupations, parties and opinions, rallied at the earliest note of alarm, with an alacrity commensurate with the magnitude of the dangers which encompassed them.

On the eleventh of November, old style, corresponding to the twenty-first of the same month, new style, 1620, the immortal Compact was signed on board the Mayflower, by our Pilgrim Fathers, and on the same day that venerated band first trod the soil of New England.

In grateful recognition of our vast indebtedness to the wise and devoted men who were actors in these most important events, and in commemoration of the transactions, in which, it has been truly said, humanity recovered its rights and instituted government on the basis of equal laws for the general good, I have thought fit to designate the anniversary of their occurrence for the celebration of the yearly Festival of Praise which a time-honored custom has prescribed:

I, therefore, with the advice of the Council, appoint Thursday, the twenty-first day of November next, and the two hundred and forty-first anniversary of the birth of popular constitutional government, to be observed by the people of this State as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise; and on that day may we all be led to a deeper and more perfect consecration of what we are and have to the cause of which our fathers so nobly began. Let us repair reverently and with hopeful spirits to our temples of religious worship, and with our voices and in our hearts, praise God for the privileges and lessons, the duties and hopes which are ours through their sacrifices and fidelity. Rejoicing in the heritage of a glorious past, let us, with manly hearts prepare for the responsibilities, in the trust that with these will come, also, the triumphs, of a yet more glorious future!

Governor Israel Washburn, Jr – 1862

**A Proclamation For A Day Of  
Public Humiliation, Fasting And Prayer.**

By advice of the Council, I appoint Thursday, the tenth of April next, for Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

And going up to our Religious Temples, may we on that day worship Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in the simplicity of conscious dependence, in the integrity of peaceful trust, and in the beauty of holiness, thus testifying by our public example, as well as in our private communings, that our strength and reliance are in Him.

While our lives have been upheld by His power and blessed by His love, they have too often borne the bitter fruits of weakness, insincerity, and uncharitableness.

Let us make use of this occasion to take account of our deeds, purposes and thoughts;

That if we have done aught unjust or unkind to our neighbor, we may hasten to undo the wrong, if possible, and at all events to make suitable and cheerful reparation:

And that if we have contemplated any evil doing, any crime or sin against God, or the least of His children, any neglect or injury to our country in the hour of her deep calamity, we may banish every such purpose from our minds, and displace every unworthy motive, every unhallowed desire by the consecration of Duty and Charity in our hearts.

## **A Proclamation For A Day Of Public Thanksgiving And Praise**

In times of calamity and trouble, our fathers did not neglect to celebrate their annual festival of Thanksgiving, and in this hour of the country's sorest trial, when bereavement and anguish have been brought to so many hearts, their children will find strength and profit in its beautiful rites, its hallowed associations, and its gracious influences.

By advice of the council, I appoint Thursday the twenty- seventh day of November next, to be observed by the people of this State as a day of "Public Thanksgiving and Praise";

And may they all regard it as a day consecrated to emotions of gratitude and good-will to deeds of benevolence and love. Abstaining from all employments and pursuits inconsistent with a proper observance of the occasion, I invite them to repair to their temples of religious worship and there, and in all places, may they be led to a devout and cheerful recognition of the many favors and privileges which have been lavished upon them during the year whose great, eventful history is so nearly made up. May they be unfeigned thankful for the blessings of material prosperity and of health, which have been so largely vouchsafed to them for the exhibitions of constancy, fidelity and manly virtue in their countrymen which have so often illustrated the dignity of human nature and the capacity of man for self-government-for the Christian charity and brotherly kindness which a better acquaintance with, and a more sensible dependence upon, each other, growing out of a common cause and a common danger, have developed and cultivated in their hearts; and especially, may they be moved to praise and bless their Heavenly Father, the Lord of all things, that He has put into the heart of the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, to promulgate, in the fullness of time, a degree of wisdom and uprightness, which shall make their beloved land strong, united, prosperous, peaceful, just, and forever free!

Governor Abner Coburn - 1863

## **A Proclamation For A Day Of Public Humiliation, Fasting And Prayer**

In obedience to a memorable and revered custom, and with the advice and sanction of the executive council, I do hereby appoint Thursday, the thirtieth day of April instant, to be observed throughout this state as a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer.

The day thus designated is peculiarly impressive and significant, because the whole Nation has been summoned to unite in its observance by solemn Proclamation from the President of the United States.

Abstaining from our ordinary pursuits and avocations, may we come together in our temples of worship, with a spirit of penitence for our many sins. Let us supplicate God, that "He will deliver us from our transgressions, and make us not the reproach of the foolish." Let us beseech Him, "that He will remove His stroke from us lest we be consumed by the blow of His hand." Let us implore Him, that we may be of "those whose God is the Lord," and that trusting in the Redeemer's name, "mercy shall compass us about and righteousness exalt us".

May we, in craving forgiveness of our personal transgressions, devoutly pray that God's merciful kindness shall be extended to us as a Nation: that the dark cloud of Civil War, still resting upon us with all its calamities, may be removed, and that the light of Peace may speedily break in upon us with the triumph of Justice, Liberty and Truth. And in all our sufferings, let us trust with unshaken faith that God will give us grace and strength to bear *them* with patriotic fortitude; and that in His Mercy; He will unite the hearts and hands of all good men in every needful effort for our country's weal.

As our forefathers in their seasons of momentous trial, never failed to appeal with Faith and Hope to the Throne of Grace, for

guidance and protection, so let us in the day of calamity turn with like confidence to the same great Power of wisdom and strength. Man is weak, but God is mighty; without His aid we wage wars in vain; but if He be with us, those against us will be confounded, and our nation will come forth victorious over its enemies, and purified because of its trials.

## **A Proclamation For a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise**

The annual religious and social festival of Thanksgiving has come down to us from the Pilgrim Fathers with its hallowed memories, together with the rich associations of succeeding generations. Wherever New Englanders have gone, they have carried with them the fondest recollections of Thanksgiving Day—especially its devout services, its distribution of bounty to the poor, and its family gatherings at the Old Homestead—so that what was once peculiar to New England, has gradually extended over the land, until by the recent Proclamation of the President it has assumed a National character.

While the passing year has been one of great and general affliction, it has also been marked by great and countless blessings, a remembrance of which should lead us, as a people, most devoutly and gratefully to recognize God as the merciful Giver of all good, and also to pray that our very afflictions may, through his overruling power, yet prove our greatest blessings.

In accordance, therefore, with the good old custom of our fathers, as well as in view of the eminent fitness of the occasion, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I hereby appoint Thursday, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of November next, to be observed by the people of this State as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise.

Let us this day, resting from the cares and toils of business, meet in our accustomed places for the devout worship and praise of the Almighty God.

Let us praise Him that our borders have not been ravaged by desolating armies; that the gallantry and heroism of our soldiers have been so often crowned with victory; that so many of our oppressed countrymen have been delivered from the hands of a cruel and merciless enemy; that the humanity and justice of our cause have at last enlisted on our side the sympathies of mankind;

and that the narrowing limits, the exhausted resources and the waning hopes of the Rebellion give signs of a speedy peace.

Let us praise Him that a bountiful harvest has crowned our store for the coming year, that labor in all the departments of industry has met with a liberal reward, and that in the midst of a gigantic civil war not only have agriculture, commerce and the mechanic arts flourished, but the interests of education, philanthropy and religion have not been neglected.

And while lifting our hearts in devout gratitude to God for His abounding goodness, let us remember the poor that are among us; let us remember our patriotic friends and citizens now absent in the army; and especially let us remember in sympathy and every needed aid, those stricken households that have offered up fathers, sons, husbands and brothers, a willing sacrifice on the altar of liberty, duty and country.

And in our hopefulness let us not forget our frailty, our proneness to evil, our constant need of Divine aid and of the mercy of God in Jesus Christ that we may become fit recipients of His continued blessings, and successful defenders of our national liberties.

Governor Samuel Cony - 1864

### **A Proclamation**

In seasons of sorrow and calamity whether of individuals or of nations, the heart of man, recognizing them as God's judgments, confesses the impotence of human powers and instinctively casts itself on the Almighty for support and consolation.

Obedient to this sentiment and conforming to the custom of our fathers, by the advice of the Executive Council, I do appoint Thursday, the fourteenth of April next, as a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer.

On that day, I do respectfully request the people of this state, magistrates and citizens, laying aside the pursuit of ordinary vocations both of business and pleasure, to repair to our accustomed places of worship, and there in humility and contrition confess our numerous transgressions of the laws of God for which He is chastising us and invoking His merciful pardon, pray that all in authority may be clothed with wisdom and godly fear, that our armies may be endued with strength in the day of battle and fortitude under all their trials, and that peace founded in righteousness may be speedily restored to the nation.

Governor Samuel Cony - 1864

### **A Proclamation**

In this day of national calamity, when our country is rent with civil convulsion, and the lurid tempest of war are sweeping the land, even now the people of the State owe a grateful acknowledgment to the Author of all mercies for the manifold token of His goodness.

The garnered harvest, rewarding with its abundance to toil of the husbandman; the large prosperity attending all the pursuits of industry the exemption from wasting pestilence; the continuance of all our accustomed privileges of education; the enjoyment, unmolested, of the right to worship God according to the dictates of our own consciences; the breaking of the fetters of the oppressed; the immunity from the ravages of war upon our own soil; the successes of the National arms on land and ocean, giving hope that the end of war is approaching; the wisdom, constancy with which the people have been inspired to maintain, through a protracted and bloody strife, the government of our fathers; all bear testimony to the goodness of God, and call upon us, bowing in humble adoration before Him, to proclaim that "His mercy endureth forever."

In recognition of these wondrous blessings, I have, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, appointed Thursday, the twenty-fourth day of November next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

I recommend to the people of this State, on that day to lay aside their usual employments, and assembling in their various temples of worship according to the custom which has descended from our ancestors, with penitent prayer and swelling anthem to give utterance to their gratitude for His great beneficence; and when we return to the festive board, blest and laden with His bounties, around which cluster so many tender associations, may our pleasures be heightened by the consciousness that we have

manifested our gratitude by sharing with the destitute abundance which He has given, so that the poor, for this day, shall forget their poverty.

Mingled indeed with sadness, will be the emotions of many households on the recurrence of this festival, as, gathering their scattered members, they find the circle of love has been broken since last they met, and gaze upon the vacant chair, which, with its silent pathos, only too painfully tells the story of those who are reposing in soldiers' graves. But even here, the cloud hath its silver lining, for heart-broken mourners will thank God for the consolation that their lost ones have perished that the nation might live.

While we deplore the untimely death of so many heroic men, let us invoke the Almighty to protect those, who, amid peril, still stand in the serried ranks of our country, fighting in her behalf and that of the human race, the battle of Republican liberty, and that He will extend His tender care to those whom the casualties of war have doomed to languish in prison or hospital.

May God, His infinite mercy, have our beloved land His holy keeping, and speed the day, when, with the authority of the nation vindicated and triumphant, the tread of hostile armies shall be no longer heard in our borders, and Peace shall gladden the hearts of a people humbled and purified by His chastisement.

### **A Proclamation**

The custom descended from our fathers, founded in a sense of the utter dependence of man upon his Maker, of setting apart, by public authority, a season for the confession of the sins of the people, commends itself at this time with unusual force and solemnity. Conforming thereto, I do, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday, the twentieth day of April next, A day for Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer!

I invite the people of this State on that day, foregoing their ordinary employments, to assemble, old and young, in the temple of the living God, and there, bowing before Him in a contrite and humble spirit, confess our manifold transgressions, and invoke His pardon through the grace of His Son.

Let us on that day, in humility, give utterance to our gratitude for His goodness to our afflicted nation and beseech Him in His own good time to cause war to cease; let us thank Him that He has put it into the hearts of the people to accord that act of justice which breaks the rod of the oppressor and liberates the bondman from his chains; let us pray for His blessing upon all in authority, that they may have wisdom according to their necessity; that if it is His will the effusion of blood shall not yet be stayed, that He will be with our armies and navies in the day of battle, and crown them with victory; that He will, in His mercy, speed the day when those who have revolted against the authority of the government, shall be inclined to peace and obedience to the laws, and the United States shall become a restored and enfranchised nation, humbled by His stripes and purified by His chastisements.

## A Proclamation

The return of the closing year; fraught with innumerable blessings, invites us again with prayer and thanks to acknowledge before the Author of them all, our multiplied obligations for His loving kindness.

I do, therefore, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday, the seventh day of December next, to be set apart as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, to be observed in this State with the solemnities usual and appropriate to the occasion.

The clarion of war no longer summons our country to arms; no more does anxious fear cause the mother's heart to beat thickly as she thinks and prays for the child of her love, exposed to the perils of battle; no longer do the sons of our people wait, in dread expectancy, the call which may snatch them forever from the homes and firesides around which their affections cluster, to join the nation's embattled host. The conflict, in which our beloved country has been engaged in the dreary years that are gone, is ended and Heaven-born peace again smiles upon us. The fathers, the brothers and sons of our State, are fast returning to their dear ones, no more; let it be hoped, to be summoned to moral strife.

For these great and special blessings, let us praise the name of God.

The memories of the glorious dead, who have perished that their country might live, let us cherish with the tenderest affection, and while we bedew their graves with our tears, may our thanks go up to the Almighty, who gave them to us and inspired them with courage and fortitude for the sacrifice.

The salvation of the nation;

The enfranchisement of the oppressed;

The prosperity of our State;

The fruitful harvests, the gift of His bounteous hand;  
The exemption from mortal plagues;  
The privileges of education and the blessings of the holy  
religion of the Savior, all call upon us to give praise to God in  
the Highest.

Let us, therefore, sharing our abundance with the needy on the  
day appointed, bring to the altar and the table, the incense of  
grateful hearts.

Governor Samuel Cony - 1866

### **A Proclamation**

In accordance with the uniform usage in this State to set a Fast at this season of the year a secular day for the acknowledgment before God of our unworthiness as a people, I do, with the advice of the Executive Council appoint Thursday, the twelfth of April next, to be observed as a day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

I earnestly request the citizens of Maine on that day in the manner and spirit of our Pilgrim Fathers to bow themselves before the Throne of Grace and invoke the Divine forgiveness of our manifold transgressions.

Never was the obligation greater nor the propriety more manifest that we should acknowledge the power of God and the infirmity of man. Let us, while imploring for ourselves His pardon and the purification of our own hearts, ask for our rulers that He will grant them His guidance in the administration of affairs, inspiring all their acts with the spirit of Him who taught that “whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye so to them”, and for our country that in the time to come, as in the past, He will vouchsafe His blessing and protection

Governor Samuel Cony - 1866

## **A Proclamation For A Day Of Public Thanksgiving And Praise**

In obedience to that usage having its origin in a profound sense of obligation and gratitude to the all Wise Disposer of human events, and hallowed by the most cherished associations, I do, by the advice of the Executive Council appoint

Thursday, the twenty-ninth day of November to be observed by the citizens of this State as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise to Him for the blessings we have enjoyed during the year that is now hastening to close.

The continuance of peace in our country while other nations have been afflicted with war; the exemption of our State from that fearful pestilence which has desolated other lands; the bountiful harvests which have crowed the labors of the husbandman, furnishing ample supplies of food for our people banishing even the apprehension of famine, the cries of which are heard coming up from remote portions of the earth; the great prosperity attending all the varied pursuits of life; the rapid recovery of our country from the wounds of a frightful civil war; the continuance of the blessings of education and the freedom of religious worship; and the manifest purpose of the people of this country under sore disappointment that manhood of every complexion and clime shall be recognized within its domain, and impartial justice assured to all are pregnant causes for thanks and praise.

I therefore invite the citizens of this State to unite according to the custom of our fathers with prayer and anthem to commemorate the return of this festal day, remembering from their abundance the poor and distressed in our midst, to invoke the continuance of Divine Favor and the pardon of our transgressions through the grace of our Lord and Savior.

Governor Joshua L. Chamberlain – 1867

### **A proclamation**

In accordance with a venerated custom, and in acknowledgment of our dependence on the Divine favor, I do hereby, with the advice of the executive Council, appoint Thursday, the fourth day of April next, to be observed as a day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer,

And I earnestly request the people of this State to devote the day to the serious duties it enjoins; that by meditation, penitence and prayer, and recognizing our utter need of His saving power in Christ, we may so humble ourselves before God, as to be spared the chastisement which our sins deserve, and obtain the blessings of His grace upon ourselves, our country, and our fellow men.

**A Proclamation For a day of Thanksgiving and Praise**

In the Spirit of those who laid the foundations of these States in the fear and praise of God, and in devout recognition of the Supreme Ruler of men and Giver of good, I do hereby with the advice of the Executive Council appoint, Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> day of November next as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

And I call upon the people of this State to assemble on that day in their sanctuaries and homes to recount the favors and repeat the praises of our most merciful Father. For life and health; for peace and home; for the prosperous course of seasons and the plenteous rewards of toil; for the gift of grace and the Hope of Heaven, let us render Him our humble thanks.

As a people we should rejoice that out of conflict and tribulation we have taught lessons of justice, humanity, and true religion. As families also, though there will be vacant places which sorrowing memory alone can fill, we will still praise Him who cannot err from right, and whose pity cannot fail.

Most of all should we remember with our fresh thanksgivings, Him who at this season came to take upon Himself our weaknesses and sins and so testify our gratitude by thoughtful obedience and living worship, that which he shall come again with power and great glory, we also may have part in His resurrection.

Governor Joshua L. Chamberlain - 1868

### **A Proclamation**

Devoutly recognizing the God of our fathers, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday, the ninth day of April next, as a day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

Let us on that day, as a people, meditate upon our solemn obligations to God, and seek of Him a right way for us, that both our labors and our sufferings, begun, continued and ended in Him, may be blessed with the plenteous fruits of His providence and His grace; in the sure hope, through the Great Humiliation unto Victory for our sake, that what is sown in weakness shall be raised in power.

Governor Joshua L. Chamberlain – 1968

## **A Proclamation For A Day Of Public Thanksgiving And Praise**

Gratefully acknowledging the manifold blessings of the God of Nature and of Grace, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday, the twenty-sixth Day of November next, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

And I call upon the people of this State to assemble on that day in their sanctuaries and homes, to recount the mercies and celebrate the praises of our Supreme Benefactor. Let the memory of sorrow soften our hearts toward all who suffer, and the enjoyment of prosperity lead us to do good unto all as God has given us means and opportunity; and let us ever yield to Him that humble obedience which is our reasonable duty and highest thanksgiving.

Governor Joshua S. Chamberlain – 1869

### **A Proclamation**

Acknowledging human dependence on Almighty favor, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday, the fifteenth day of April next, as a day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

Let us as a people, on that day turn aside from our common cares and meditate upon the concerns of our truer life and conscious of our weakness and confessing our sins, so humble ourselves before God, that He may be pleased to accept our penitence and bless our toils and trials to our present and eternal good.

### **A Proclamation**

Humbly acknowledging our dependence on the Supreme Ruler, the Father of our spirits, and devoutly recognizing the importance of closer communion with Him, I do hereby, in accordance with a revered custom of our fathers and with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday, the thirteenth day of April next as a day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

And I earnestly invite the people of this State to gather on that day in their families and places of public worship in such devotional exercises as become the erring children of Him whose tender mercies have never forsaken us. And through the holy influence of these services may we be better prepared to resist evil and overcome temptation and become more consecrated to every patriotic and Christian duty.

Governor Nelson Dingley, Jr. - 1974

### **A Proclamation**

In accordance with a revered custom of our Fathers, and in compliance with the recommendation of the President of the United States, I do hereby, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday the Twenty-Sixth of November, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

And I recommend that all the people of the State unite in such an observance of a day hallowed by so tender memories, as will most appropriately render grateful acknowledgment to Almighty God for the blessings which He has vouchsafed us as a State and a Nation.

Governor Nelson Dingley, Jr. - 1875

**A Proclamation for a Day of  
Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer**

In accordance with a venerated custom, and in acknowledgement of our dependence on the Divine favor, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday, the eighth day of April next to be observed as a day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

### **A Proclamation**

In conformity to the proclamation of the President of the United States, and by the advice of the Executive Council, I do hereby appoint Thursday, the thirtieth day of November, instant, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God, and I recommend to the people of this State the employment of the day thus set apart in offering the grateful acknowledgments due to Him for the well-being of our country, our State and our homes during the year that has passed, and in preferring our petitions for the continuance of His loving kindness toward us.

The custom of our fathers endears to us the holding of family festivals upon that day as a beautiful and appropriate feature of its observance. If, amid the gladness of happy reunions of parents and children and children's children round a common hearthstone, our gratitude for the good that we and ours enjoy, shall extend our thoughts to the great family which embraces us all, shall awaken in our hearts fresh sentiments of love and good-will towards our fellow-men, and strengthen our determination to support the institutions and aid the influences which tend to benefit them, and to lessen human wretchedness and suffering, then will the day of our Thanksgiving be most blessed.

### **A Proclamation**

By the advice of the Executive Council, I do hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of April as a day of Public Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

And I recommend to the people of this State the observance of it in a manner befitting the designation it bears, and in the spirit with which the custom that ordains it was instituted.

The season when Nature begins her new year, and gives visible promise of re-clothing the earth with the beauty of her verdure, and preparing the fruits and harvests of her constant bounty, is most suggestive of the renewal of hope, aspiration, an endeavor in the minds and hearts of men.

Let us obey the impulse of the opening year, and, bowing in humility before Him who rules alike the forces of Nature and our human ways, form and confirm every good purpose for the conduct of our lives, and crave God's blessing upon us, our State and County.

**A Proclamation.**

The people of this State have received signal revelations of the goodness of God, in the blessings He has bestowed upon them throughout the year. Health and prosperity have been given them in full measure. Peace, good will and well being have prevailed. The seasons have been propitious, and nature has continued the glories of the summer beyond its usual limits through a long succession of beautiful days, gladdening the earth and uplifting all hearts its in joy and thankfulness.

In order that the people may with one accord offer their reverent thanks, I do hereby, in conformity to the usage which sanctions and endears this annual holiday, and by and with the advice and consent of the Council, appoint Thursday, the Twenty-Eighth day of November, 1878, As a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to God, For the rich gifts and constant care of the past year, and for the promises and hopes that attend the coming of the new year.

### **A Proclamation**

By the advice of the Executive Council, I do hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November, instant, as a day of public thanksgiving and praise to our Father in Heaven, for His kind care over the people of this State in the year that is now closing.

Living under one common government that is grand and strong enough to protect every citizen in the full enjoyment of all his rights, it is befitting that we should unite with our fellow-countrymen, upon that day, at the invitation of the President of the United States, in solemn acknowledgement of the goodness of God, wherewith our State and Nation have been so abundantly blest.

May the hearts of our people be moved to give earnest thanks that peace and plenty, health and prosperity, prevail throughout all our borders, and that the principles of liberty established by the Fathers who gave us this service, grow stronger as the years of the Republic go by.

Governor Harris M. Plaisted - 1882

### **A Proclamation**

In accordance with a good and ancient custom, originating with our New England ancestors, and hallowed by joyful rites and pious observance for more than two hundred and fifty years, I, Harris M. Plaisted, Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, do hereby appoint and set apart Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1882, as a day of **Public Thanksgiving and Praise to our God, the Giver of every good and perfect gift.**

And I do recommend the good people of our favored State to gather around their hearths and altars and keep this glad New England festival in due and ancient form. "Enter into His Gates with thanksgiving and into His Courts with praise," and "to do good and to distribute, forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

"If thou hast much, give plenteously; if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give of that little, for so gatherest thou thyself a good reward."

### **A Proclamation**

By the advice of the Executive Council, and with a proper respect for a venerated New England observance, I hereby appoint Thursday, the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of November, Instant, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

We are forcibly reminded that the Autumnal season brings with it the greetings of the harvest home, where are gathered the fruits of the harvest toil of the husbandman. Providence has given us, with an unsparing hand, shower and sunshine; and we have had an abundant harvest. Let us return a joyful Thanksgiving for this and other heavenly gifts. Let us rejoice with gladness for the continuance of plenty; rejoice for prosperity in all our material resources; rejoice for the unusual health of our people; rejoice for the progress for religion, education and liberty; rejoice for the advancement of temperance, peace, and all moral and national reforms. Midst such cheerful surroundings, let us bestow gifts bountifully, from our homes of plenty, upon the poor and needy.

Let all the people of this State, on this, our National holiday, assemble in their usual places of worship for Thanksgiving and Praise; always mindful that, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; except the Lord keep the city the watchman, waketh in vain."

## **A Proclamation**

The faith of our ancestors in the power of prayer to Almighty God, and a realization of entire dependence upon His mercy, led them early to set apart a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer, which has become an honored usage, and, when accompanied by an humble and sincere belief that He is one “who heareth prayer,” is profitable in its continuance.

I, therefore, by advice and consent of the Executive Council appoint Thursday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April Next, to be observed by the people of this State for that pious purpose; and I do urge that it be kept in the private home and public sanctuary as becomes a Christian people who have been the grateful recipients of so many varied blessings.

Let us continue to implore the favor of God, the forgiveness of sins, the general prosperity of our State and Country, and the triumph of a correct faith throughout the world. “The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy.”

Governor Frederick Robie - 1886

### **A Proclamation**

The President of the United States, in accordance with a custom instituted by our forefathers, has appointed Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise

I do, therefore, by the advice and consent of the Executive Council, recommend that the people of the State of Maine, on that day lay aside their usual avocations, and joyfully gather around the family hearth-stone, and thoughtfully assemble in their accustomed places of public worship, everywhere giving thanks and praise to God for His bountiful gifts and fatherly protection.

Let us as citizens of a highly favored State, especially return thanks to the Giver of all good for the abundant harvest, material prosperity, religious, educational and political blessings of the year.

Let us be ever guided by the teachings of the Christian Religion, and wherever an opportunity offers, with open hands and generous hearts contribute from our abundance to the wants of the poor and unfortunate, thus serving to make our National Holiday a joyous "Thanksgiving Day" for the whole people.

### **A Proclamation**

Acknowledging with sincere gratitude the signal revelations of the impartial goodness of Almighty God, the Creator of all and Giver of every present good, which have been vouchsafed to us in inestimable blessings He has bestowed upon us throughout the past year, and in accordance with a venerated custom, and the recommendation of the President of the United States, with the advice of the Executive Council, I do hereby appoint Thursday, November Twenty-Fourth, 1887, as a day of public Thanksgiving and Praise.

For the continuance of plenty; for prosperity in all material resources; for freedom from the destroying pestilence; for the unmarked progress of religion, education and the great temperance and other moral reforms; for the growing strength of the principles of civil and religious liberty established by our Fathers; for all the causes for individual gratitude, let all the people of this State, abstaining from their usual secular employments and assembling in their places of public worship or around their family hearthstones, offer heartfelt thanks to the Heavenly Father.

Remembering also that losses and sorrows are the common lot of humanity, let the people cherish thoughts of tenderness and charity and make glad the hearts of the poor and suffering by sympathy and generous gifts of material aid.

### **A Proclamation**

In accordance with the sacred and beautiful custom, fitting in itself, and endeared to the people of New England by an unbroken observance of more than two centuries, I do hereby, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday, the nineteenth day of April, next, as a Day of Fasting and Prayer.

And I recommend to the citizens of the State, that the day be observed throughout its borders in a manner becoming an enlightened and Christian people; that on that day, in the homes and in the accustomed places of public worship, they do not forget to acknowledge the power, the unspeakable goodness and loving kindness of Him who is the God alike of nations and of individuals; that they confess the sins of the past and consecrate their future to the Heavenly Father, “the giver of every good and perfect gift,” and “whose mercy endureth forever.”

### **A Proclamation**

In accordance with an old-established and venerated custom, I do hereby, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, designate Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of April, instant, as a Day of Fasting and Prayer.

And I recommend to the people of Maine, that, ceasing from their ordinary vocations on that day, they assemble at their family firesides and usual places of public worship and unite in religious devotion, in fasting and prayer, thus reverently acknowledging the Supreme Being as the Ruler and Father of all, to whom implicit obedience is always due, and without whose care there can be no true prosperity in the home nor in the state.

Humbly acknowledging our sins and sincerely praying for Divine forgiveness, may we earnestly and unitedly resolve to be guided by truth and justice, both in private and public life, and thus faithfully discharge the duties we owe to our Heavenly Father and to our fellowmen.

### **A Proclamation**

Respect for the religious customs and forms held in veneration by successive generations is a patriotic duty which good citizens and their chosen agents will always faithfully regard. Gratitude to God who created and so wisely governs the world springs from what is best in human nature, and individuals and States that fail to manifest it are on the road to demoralization and decline. It is therefore in obedience to a plain official obligation, and with the advice of the Executive Council, that I hereby designate and set apart Thursday, the twenty-eighth day of November instant, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer,

And urge on the people of this State to assemble on that day in their homes and in their respective places of public worship, and there earnestly to express gratitude to the Omnipotent Father, for His blessings during the past year, and to pray for His care and guidance in the future.

In thus acknowledging that religion is the foundation of the State, while we humbly confess our sins and solicit Divine forgiveness, we follow in the footsteps of our ancestry who did so much to bequeath to us the priceless blessings of Free and Christian Government.

Governor Edwin c. Burleigh - 1890

### **A Proclamation**

In accordance with a venerated custom, hallowed by the people of New England from early days, I do hereby, with the advice of the Executive Council, designate and set apart Thursday, the seventeenth day of April next, as a Day of Fasting and Prayer.

And I earnestly recommend to the people of Maine, that upon that day they abstain from their usual vocations, and in their homes and places of public worship, acknowledge their sins and renew their allegiance to Him in whom "we live, and move and have our being." Let us earnestly supplicate His mercy and ask for His guidance, that we may the more faithfully perform the duties which we owe to Him and to our fellowmen.

Governor Edwin c. Burleigh – 1890

### **A Thanksgiving Proclamation**

Near the close of the first memorable year that the early Pilgrim Fathers spent upon the soil of a New World when the first small harvest had been gathered into their store houses, and new hopes were dispelling the shadows of famine and pestilence they meet together to “rejoice after a mere special manner,” and to return thanks for the blessings of Providence.

The custom thus originated in New England, has since properly become national in its observance.

The people of Maine are nearing the close of a year that has been, fruitful in bounties. Peace and prosperity have attended us and the earth has richly yielded up its increase. I, therefore, with the advice of the Executive Council designate Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> day of November, instant as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise

Upon that day let us abstain from our customary vocations, and in our homes and various places of public worship, return, out of the gratitude of contrite hearts, humble acknowledgments to the All-wise Father who has so freely bestowed upon us his mercies.

Governor Llewellyn Powers – 1900

### **A Fast Day Proclamation**

Conforming to a time-honored custom, inaugurated by the pioneers and early settlers of New England, venerated by our Fathers, and very generally observed throughout that section of our country down to the present time, I do now, by the authority vested in me as Governor, and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, appoint Thursday, the nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred, as a day of Fasting and Prayer, to be observed by all the people of Maine in a manner, which, in this sunset year of the nineteenth century, shall appropriately and reverently recall and recognize the associations and memories which still cluster around this annually recurring day.

## **A Thanksgiving Proclamation**

As we approach the end of the year and the sunset hour of this 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the people of Maine should be devoutly and truly thankful to Almighty God for the blessings and process which this year and the century have brought to them and to the State; for the spirit of patriotism, love of country and unflinching devotion to duty which have pervaded both our State and Nation, and for the bright sun of hope, prosperity and confidence in the future, already illuminating the threshold of the coming year. We have abundant harvests. The interests of education have been promoted. Law, order, individual liberty and personal security rule and bless every part of our Commonwealth. Never in history were the skies brighter or the people more prosperous and happy. “The hand of God has been upon us for good.” In grateful recognition that “This also cometh down from the Lord of Hosts, wonderful in council, and excellent in working,” and following and conforming to a time-honored custom of our forefathers, I, Llewellyn Powers, Governor of the State of Maine, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, do hereby designate Thursday, the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of November, A.D. 1900, as a day of general Thanksgiving, to be observed by all good citizens in manner befitting a Christian and God-fearing state. Let no one fail to remember on that day, with charity and benevolence, the poor and unfortunate.

Governor John F. Hill – 1901

**Executive Department**  
**Fast Day Proclamation by the Governor**

In accordance with the time-honored custom of our forefathers, made sacred by observance through many generations, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of April as a day of Fasting and Prayer.

Let the day be observed in a manner befitting the purposes to which it has been consecrated. In our homes and in the accustomed places of public worship, let us with grateful hearts yield reverent acknowledgment to Almighty God for the innumerable blessings which we have received, and for His many tender mercies toward us; and invoking continuance of the Divine favor, let us implore His guidance and aid in our future undertakings.

Governor John F. Hill – 1901

**A Proclamation by the Governor For  
A Day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer**

Following the custom inaugurated by our forefathers and cherished by pious observance through many generations, in conformity with the proclamation of our President, I John F. Hill, Governor of the State of Maine, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, hereby appoint Thursday, the Twenty-eighth Day of November Current as a day of public thanksgiving to God for His manifold blessings and of remembrance of His loving kindness.

Upon that day let labor be suspended, and gathering in your accustomed places of worship, let all join in making it a time of grateful and genuine thanksgiving.

The present year has been one of abundant prosperity to our State; the rewards of honest industry and well directed effort have never been greater, and as we rejoice over bountiful harvests and the success which has crowned our efforts in every field of endeavor, let us remember the poor and unfortunate; let our gratitude for health and plenty be expressed not alone in words, but in deeds of charity and benevolence, that all may have cause for thankfulness.

Governor John F. Hill – 1903

### **A Fast Day Proclamation**

In accordance with the custom which has prevailed since the time of the Pilgrims, with the advice of the Executive Council, I hereby designate Thursday, the twenty-third day of April, instant, as FAST DAY.

Upon this day let all unnecessary labor be suspended and in deference to the purpose for which it was founded, let it be properly observed and respected throughout the entire State.

Governor John F. Hill – 1903

**Proclamation by the Governor  
For a Day of Public Thanksgiving**

In observance of the custom established by our forefathers and conforming to the proclamation of the President, I, John F. Hill, Governor of Maine, hereby designate Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November, Instant, as a day of public thanksgiving to Almighty God for the multitude of blessings which we have received at His hand and for the expression of our gratitude for His loving kindness.

On that day let all unnecessary labor be suspended and in our homes and accustomed places of worship let us unite in making this a time of grateful and heartfelt thanksgiving.

The year now approaching its close has been one of prosperity to the State and the Nation. To the highest degree we have enjoyed every blessing of civilized life and as we give thanks to Him whose watchful care ruleth over all, let us remember the unfortunate and needy that they also may share in our prosperity.

Governor John F. Hill - 1904

Following a precedent that has existed since Maine first became a State, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I hereby appoint Thursday, the twenty-first day of April, instant, as FAST DAY.

Upon this day let all unnecessary labor be suspended, and in deference to this time-honored custom instituted by our forefathers, let it be appropriately observed by all the people of the State.

Governor John F. Hill – 1904

### **A Proclamation**

In accordance with the custom, which has prevailed since the time of the Pilgrims, and conforming to the proclamation of the President, I, John F. Hill, Governor of Maine, hereby appoint Thursday, November Twenty-fourth, instant, as Thanksgiving Day. Upon that day let us suspend our usual vocations, and in the church and by the fireside let us express our gratitude to Almighty God for the unceasing manifestations of His loving care and the manifold blessings which we have received at His hands.

The year has been one of bountiful harvests. Prosperity has blessed both the State and the Nation. As with grateful hearts we acknowledge the beneficence of Him who watches over all, let us not forget the needy and unfortunate, but by deeds of charity and benevolence, and give them also cause for thanksgiving.

Governor William T. Cobb – 1905

### **A Proclamation**

The President of the United States has designated Thursday, November thirtieth, as a day for Public Thanksgiving and Prayer. This custom originated in New England and has always been observed by the people of this State. Therefore, I William T. Cobb, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby appoint Thursday, November Thirtieth, Instant, Thanksgiving Day and ask all those whose homes are here, to recognize the true spirit of the custom, and mindful of their obligations to the needy, to manifest their grateful acknowledgments of the blessings of liberty, peace and public prosperity, which, under God, have been bestowed upon us all.

### **A Proclamation**

As the close of the year approaches, the mind turns to the observance of the best and oldest of New England customs, Thanksgiving. By law a holiday, it is in spirit a festival. It celebrates the bounties of nature and the rewards of toil, arouses sentiments of gratitude for the blessings of peace and prosperity vouchsafed our State and Nation, quickens the desire to lessen the burdens of the unfortunate and needy, and above all else inclines the heart to a reverent acknowledgement to God for the divine favors He has bestowed upon His people.

Therefore, I, William T. Cobb, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby designate Thursday, November Twenty-ninth, instant, Thanksgiving Day, and ask the sons and daughters of Maine to honor the day and its meaning, and heedful of the year's disappointments as well as of its achievements to resolve upon a course of conduct that shall promise individual happiness and public well-being.

Governor William T. Cobb – 1907

### **A Proclamation**

The season for Thanksgiving is at hand, and the history and experiences of another year again present themselves for consideration by a thoughtful and discriminating people.

Not every such period of time can bring the maximum of prosperity and happiness to the community, and it is well to remember that adversity no less than success is a force that develops the powers and opportunities of the individual and the State.

The citizens of Maine are proud of their State, industrious and confident, and for the many rewards and blessings that have been vouchsafed them they are reverently thankful.

Now, therefore, I William T. Cobb, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby appoint Thursday, November Twenty-eighth, instant, Thanksgiving Day, and ask all our people to manifest their gratitude by such an earnest observance of this beautiful and time honored custom as will cheer the hearts of the unfortunate and be acceptable to the God from whom our bounties fall.

### **A Proclamation**

No State is truly great nor can long endure that does not appeal to God for strength in adversity and for humility in success. The year now drawing to a close is filled with signs both of warning and encouragement, and that their real meaning may not be misunderstood nor disregarded should be the prayer of all those who love their Country and who hope for public and individual well-being under the development of her resources and her laws.

Now, therefore, I, William T. Cobb, Governor of the State of Maine, in recognition of the custom established by our forefathers and followed by succeeding generations, do hereby appoint Thursday, November Twenty-sixth, Instant, Thanksgiving Day, and ask the people of Maine to devote themselves earnestly to its observance and service.

The spirit in which the festival was conceived and the traditions which surround it should incline all to expressions of gratitude and acts of kindness. Material prosperity may well prove to be a menace to social order unless accompanied by a full sense of its obligations and limitations, but when in the hearts of a people there abide reverence and charity the State is safe and the future secure.

Governor Bert M. Fernald – 1909

### **A Proclamation By The Governor**

Following a custom which had its origin in New England, and in conformity to the proclamation of the President, I Bert M. Fernald, Governor of the State of Maine, hereby designate Thursday, November Twenty-Fifth, instant, Thanksgiving Day.

On this day let all unnecessary labor be suspended, and , gathering in our homes and in our accustomed places of worship, let us give thanks to God for the blessings of health; for peace and prosperity as a State and as a Nation; for bountiful harvests and the blessings of liberty. Let us not forget the needy or the afflicted, but by our alms or ministrations give them especial cause for thanksgiving. Thus will the day be made to conform to the purpose for which it was originally set apart by our forefathers.

### **A Proclamation**

None of the customs bequeathed to us by our fathers is deserving of more faithful observance than that of recognizing the Beneficent Power, whose rules bring the sunshine, the rain and the heat that mean abundance and contentment to the people of the earth. Our own borders have never been more bountifully blessed and prospered than during the year now drawing to a close. Our soil has produced with almost marvelous fertility; and labor has been employed with constancy and profit; country, town and city have enjoyed with marked equality the fruits of peace and plenty.

In acknowledgment, therefore, Of Divine favor, and in accordance with the hallowed New England practice, I Bert M Fernald, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby designate Thursday, November Twenty-Fourth, a day of public thanksgiving. Let us observe in the manner consecrated by those from whom we received it.

### **A Proclamation**

In accordance with a good and ancient custom, originating with our New England ancestors, and hollowed by joyful rites and observance for more than two hundred and eighty years, I Frederick W Plaisted, Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, do hereby appoint and set apart Thursday, November 30, A.D., 1911 as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise to our God, The Giver of every good and perfect gift.

And I do recommend the good people of our favored State to gather around their hearths and altars and keep this glad New England festival in due and ancient form. “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His Courts with praise,” and “to do good and to distribute, forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

Governor Frederick W. Plaisted – 1912

### **A Proclamation**

The setting apart by Executive proclamation once a year as a day of public thanksgiving and praise originated with our New England ancestors nearly three centuries ago and it has, in the course of time, grown to be a great National festival.

In accordance with this good and ancient custom and in conformity with the proclamation of the President of the United States, I, Frederick W. Plaisted, Governor, by and with the consent and advice of the Council, do hereby appoint and set apart Thursday, November 28, A. D., 1912 as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise to our God, the Giver of every perfect gift, in recognition of His goodness and mercy in bestowing prosperity, peace and happiness upon the people of our favored State.

Governor William J. Haines – 1913

### **A Proclamation by the Governor**

In recognition of a custom established by our forefathers, and the regular and helpful observance of the same through many generations, and in conformity with our statutes, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I do hereby appoint and set aside Thursday, November 27th, 1913, as a day of public thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God, in recognition of His power, goodness and mercy.

More happy than ever in the numerous blessings which have been ours during the past year; and believing our prosperity and improvement in moral and spiritual life have been equal, if not greater than those of previous years, let us one and all in our churches and homes return thanks for these blessings to the Great Giver of every perfect gift.

Governor William T. Haines - 1914

### **A Proclamation By The Governor.**

In recognition of a custom established by our forefathers, and the regular and helpful observance of the same through many generations, and in conformity with our statutes, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, I do hereby appoint and set aside Thursday, November 26th, 1914, as a day of public thanksgiving and praise to almighty God in recognition of His power, goodness and mercy.

Maine has been favored by Nature during the seasons of 1914, resulting in more than average crops, and with an unusually favorable season for harvesting them. While we have suffered some set back in manufactures and trade, the prospects for the future, aided by the most terrible war in history, now raging in Europe, seem encouraging.

I wish to urge upon our people the contrast of our peace and prosperity with the distress and suffering in Europe, and ask that they contribute liberally for the relief of the unfortunate, but unblamable victims of the war.

The Red Cross Society stands ready to receive and transmit promptly all contributions for their assistance. Remember that Charity is the greatest of all virtues.

Let us all join in home and church in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for these blessings of peace, prosperity and happiness.

Governor Oakley C. Curtis - 1915

## **A Proclamation By The Governor**

Almost 100 years ago the people of Maine, in order to establish justice, insure tranquility, provide for mutual defense, promote common welfare, and to secure to themselves and their posterity the blessings of liberty, formed themselves into a free and independent State by the style and title of the State of Maine.

They acknowledged with grateful hearts the goodness of the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe in affording an opportunity so favorable to the design and implored His aid and directions in its accomplishment.

The accomplishment has been going on with more or less precision but there is equal need to petition the Throne for continued directions to still greater achievement in accord with broader development and more extended vision.

There is every reason to reiterate our thanks to the Almighty for that opportunity and for the blessings poured out on this people.

This opportunity is presented for more especial thanks to Him for the peace and tranquility which pervades this State and this Country at a time when distress and sorrow predominate among such a large proportion of the people of the world.

In rendering thanks for all our blessings, the sorrows and sufferings of those less fortunate should not be forgotten, and supplications should go forth for the mercy of God in their behalf.

Therefore, realizing the blessings received and the need of continued appeal to the Supreme Ruler, I hereby set aside Thursday, November 25, 1915, as the day for annual Thanksgiving according to the usual custom.

**A Proclamation By The Governor**

Whereas, our honored President, Woodrow Wilson, has, by formal proclamation, designated Thursday, the thirtieth day of November, as Thanksgiving Day, in accordance with custom long established in these United States of America; therefore, I, Oakley C. Curtis, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby appoint Thursday, the thirtieth day of November, to be observed in a manner appropriate to the sentiment and spirit of the occasion, and I suggest that the people of the State of Maine observe this day by congregating in their accustomed places of worship and giving thanks to Almighty God for the peace and prosperity that prevails throughout our land in this time of almost world wide strife and suffering, and for all other blessings bestowed upon us.

Governor Carl E. Milliken - 1918

### **Proclamation By The Governor**

The dawn of peace upon the war worn world lends to our New England Thanksgiving Day this year a profound and unprecedented significance in the hour of victory. We rejoice that despotism has been overthrown, that the shadow of dread is now lifted from many thousand homes and that our national spirit redeemed from selfishness and the love of ease, is consecrated to the task of safeguarding the blessing of liberty for all oppressed and harassed peoples of the world.

Now, therefore, I, Carl E. Milliken, Governor of Maine, do hereby designate and proclaim Thursday, the twenty-eighth day of November, nineteen hundred and eighteen a day of thanksgiving and prayer and I urge the people of Maine to refrain from their customary labors on that day and in their houses of worship to return thanks to Almighty God for his abundant blessings.

Let us beseech Him to comfort those who are bereaved and. let us humbly seek His divine guidance that we may help to heal the scars of sacrifice and embody in the new world order ideals of the Prince of Peace.

Governor Carl E. Milliken - 1919

### **A Proclamation By the Governor**

Seldom since the first New England Thanksgiving Day has there been greater cause for gratitude to Almighty God, or graver need to seek His blessing and His sustaining guidance.

By the favor of Divine Providence, our Nation has in large measure escaped the riot and disaster which in the aftermath of war distress threaten to overwhelm so much of the civilized world,

But in the seething unrest so prevalent in industrial centers and in occasional fierce outbreaks of selfishness and greed, are plainly to be seen symptoms of possible calamities no less appalling even in our own land.

The future offers no sure defense against this peril except the power of the Spirit of God in the hearts of all Americans, redeeming them from self—seeking, and inspiring them to mutual understanding and helpfulness.

Now, therefore, I, Carl E. Milliken, Governor of Maine, do hereby designate and proclaim Thursday, the twenty-seventh day of November, a day of Thanksgiving and prayer.

And while returning thanks to God, for His abundant bounty, let us humbly beseech Him to save us from selfishness and cruelty and to renew within us that devotion to truth and righteousness which shall safeguard the fruits of the victory for which so many of our countrymen have fought and died.

Governor Carl E. Milliken - 1920

### **A Proclamation By The Governor**

In this centennial year of the history of Maine and the tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, the thoughts of our people have turned especially towards the noble and romantic history of the founding and development of our New England community life.

A part of our heritage from the great days of old is the custom of devoting a day at the close of the harvest season to returning thanks to Almighty God for his continual and abundant mercies.

More than any other People in the world we in this favored land have reason to observe this ancient custom. Our crops are bountiful, our fields and homes are untouched by the ravages of war, our children are clothed and fed, our liberty is safeguarded by stable and orderly government, we are surrounded by the blessings of plenty and peace.

Now, therefore, I, Carl E. Milliken, Governor of Maine, do hereby designate and set apart Thursday the twenty-fifth day of November a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer and I call upon our people in their homes, in places of public worship and wherever they may assemble humbly and sincerely to thank God for all his mercies, and earnestly to seek His guidance that the spirit of devotion and self-denial which brought the Pilgrims across the Atlantic may still animate our citizenship, and that we may be saved from self-seeking greed and the temptations of prosperity and peace.

Governor Percival P. Baxter – 1921

**Proclamation By The Governor  
Thanksgiving Day, 1921**

The men and women of Maine have reason to be thankful for the inheritance of character and self-control handed down to them from their forefathers, for than this there is no finer inheritance. Those early pioneers, coming from across the seas to this unknown land, erected a free government in the wilderness of its woods and on the bleak shores of its coast, and they builded better than they knew. From the earliest times this State has stood for high ideals, and its manhood and womanhood is not surpassed by that of any of its sister states.

Now, Therefore, I, Percival P. Baxter, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby designate Thursday, November 24th, 1921, thanksgiving day in the state of Maine, and, as the family is the unit of the State, I call upon the people of Maine to observe this day and to strengthen their home ties by gathering together wherever possible in family groups. I urge our citizens to give thanks to the Almighty, both in their homes and in their churches, for the many blessings He has bestowed upon this State, and to pray to Him that our people may remain steadfast in the right and may be worthy of a cont of the divine blessing.

Governor Percival P. Baxter – 1922

**Proclamation by the Governor  
Thanksgiving Day November 30, 1922**

The people of the United States are favored beyond those of any other nation. At peace with the world and with prosperity rapidly returning we have reason to be grateful for the unusual blessings that have come to us not on account of any virtue of our own, but by reason of the character of the earnest, God-fearing men and women of former generations.

Long established custom has set apart a day each year for the renewal of family ties, for giving thanks to the Almighty and for asking Him that our people may be worthy to receive His favors. Now, therefore, I, Percival P. Baxter, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby designate Thursday, November 30th, 1922, Thanksgiving Day in the state of Maine.

I ask all citizens of this State, regardless of race or religion, to properly observe the day in their homes and churches. I remind them that the present generation is inclined to be complacent. It accepts the fruits of the labors of others without realizing that there is a debt of gratitude owed former generations that can be repaid only by transmitting to those who follow the heritage of liberty that has come down to us, the greatest and most enduring heritage in history.

Governor Percival P. Baxter - 1923

### **Proclamation By The Governor**

The people of Maine have reason to be thankful for the general material prosperity that abounds within our State. What is of far greater importance, the great body of our citizens are law-abiding men and women. For that and for the fact that there is an ever growing sentiment for law observance and respect for law, we have reason to be especially thankful.

Maine with its background of noble traditions, with its high type of citizenship, should not rest content until there is a further moral awakening that will drive the lawbreaker, no matter how powerful he be, from our midst, and will show those to whom he panders that their patronage of crime is undermining the foundations of the State whose protection they enjoy and whose blessings they share.

Now, therefore, I, Percival P. Baxter, Governor of the State of Maine do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 29, 1923 a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer in the State of Maine.

We all have been blessed in a measure far beyond our - deserts. Let us pray that we may be humble and worthy to receive the Divine approval. Let our people give thanks to the Almighty for the countless favors He has bestowed upon us and let us resolve that hereafter Maine shall be the premier State in the observance of the laws of God and Man.

## Governor Ralph Brewster - 1925

The happy custom of a Thanksgiving Day inherited from our mother commonwealth is a recurring reminder of our obligation to the "Giver of every good and perfect gift". The first formal Thanksgiving Day upon this continent was celebrated amid material conditions that would seem to us grotesque. Our Pilgrim Fathers devoutly rendered thanks for a little cluster of huddled huts upon a bleak New England shore with three thousand miles of raging Atlantic behind and three thousand miles of wilderness and savages before. In immediate prospect loomed a second New England winter and one-third of their little company had perished in the first.

Today we prepare to assemble amid material conditions that are exactly the reverse. The world is linked by science and goodwill into a most intimate accord. The ocean has shrunk before the transportation and communication marvels of our day. The continent is thronged from coast to coast with myriad millions of happy contented people brought from every land. Protection is ours from every ill and supply beyond the wildest dreams of avarice in the days that are now past.

It is altogether fitting that we should turn aside to voice thanks.

Now, therefore, Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1925 is hereby proclaimed as Thanksgiving Day in the state of Maine.

Before we gather for our feast and our rejoicing in response to the call of our President let us pause from our material preoccupations and render tribute to the things above the flesh. In our several houses of worship or in our homes let us read from the chart of our forefathers such a passage as the ninety-first Psalm as a recognition of the protection for our nation that so far has never failed.

A general display of the national colors will offer inspiration to

renew our allegiance to the flag of our country and to the Constitution for which alone that flag stands.

This nation was founded and has been so far preserved by leaders recognizing a guidance outside the world we see. Adversity bred moral giants upon these granitic hills. Let us make sure that prosperity shall not terminate the spiritual culture that adversity has so well begun.

Governor Ralph Brewster - 1928

### **Proclamation By The Governor**

Log huts in a winter wilderness of savages and snow first inspired our Pilgrim Fathers to rejoice and give thanks to God. Gratitude for their most meager blessings poured out from overflowing hearts. With difficulty may America today imagine the conditions under which those sturdy pioneers sent up their hymns of praise.

The State of Maine has passed through another year of peace and plenty with constant increase of those resources in property and intelligence that enable us ever more wisely and, easily to carry on.

The heirs of three centuries of frugal toil upon these shores, the citizens of Maine have each year more abundant reason for giving thanks.

Free from the catastrophes of nature with which many of our fellow-men have been obliged repeatedly to contend, the State of Maine goes forward with more and more of confidence built upon its granitic rocks. The character and the prosperity of our State seem to partake of the permanency of our hills.

No generation has ever had more occasion for gratitude than citizens of Maine in recent years. Each recurring anniversary sees the progress of our country to ever greater heights - spiritual and material alike - if we read aright the meaning of the vast increase in our wealth and the ever greater measure in which its blessings are diffused.

Now, therefore, Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 1928 is hereby proclaimed as Thanksgiving Day in the state of Maine.

This is properly a day for rejoicing and. Re-uniting of family ties, but it was also dedicated in its inception to a reminder of our most intimate dependence upon things above the flesh. The

significance of this day, unique in American history, may be happily realized by assembling in our several places of worship and rendering thanks to God for all the blessings of this country reveling in a bounty of which our humble ancestors could not even dream.

Three centuries have tested the capacity of America to survive adversities of many kinds. Prosperity is now the problem and gratitude the leaven for all materialistic lumps.

The investment of this holiday will pay abundant dividends if the citizens of Maine shall lift themselves for a little from the earth and rededicate their purposes to the guidance of the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

Governor William Tudor Gardiner - 1929

**Proclamation By The Governor  
Thanksgiving Day, 1929**

By early decree of our forefathers there was established the custom of setting aside one day in the year to express thanks for our many material blessings. We have but to pause and reflect for a brief interval to realize the vast gifts granted us, both as a Nation and as a State. The prosperity of our land and the general contentment of our people carries just cause for thankfulness.

We are a Nation at peace with the world, and we hope to prove as a Nation a force for the continuing peace of the world. It is, therefore, well that we should be moved by this spirit of thankfulness, that we may come closer to a realization of those benefits and joys which have come to us, and I do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 25, 1929 Thanksgiving Day In The State of Maine.

Let us upon this day, as we halt in our respective labors, be mindful of the happiness we hold, the blessings we have received and endeavor to give our sincere thanks for the Divine gifts assigned us.

Governor William Tudor Gardiner - 1930

**Proclamation by the Governor  
Thanksgiving Day, 1930**

The simple harvest of our forefathers brought sincere expressions of thankfulness. The fruitfulness of the land gave assurance to physical life that spiritual life might tower above the things of the earth.

Today we demand more from the world. Because we have much so that can be seen let us not be unmindful of the blessings which are unseen.

Let us be thankful for this age of enlightenment and Peace.

It is well that a time should be set apart from usual pursuits and I do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 27, 1930 Thanksgiving Day In the State of Maine.

Let us upon this day endeavor to give our thanks to God for the gifts assigned us.

William Tudor Gardiner - 1932

**Proclamation By The Governor  
Thanksgiving Day, 1931**

The custom of our forefathers again brings us to that time of the year when we set aside a day to offer thanks to Almighty God for the blessings we have received.

We are a people whose inheritance from sturdy pioneers is courage in the face of adversity. Just now we are passing through a period when we see around us much suffering - though some of it may be caused by imaginary economic instability, the suffering nevertheless is very real. More than ever before we should seek out those things for which to be thankful, rather than deplore our misfortunes. Let us cherish a steadfastness of purpose such as maintained the Pilgrims who awaited the first of these days. May this be a season of unselfish Thanksgiving, encouraging the resolve and the will for better things.

We are a nation at peace with the World; a nation that has found, in any crisis, foreign or domestic, a citizenry apt to its needs and willing to its service. Our thanks for that tradition can best be expressed by our contributing to its endurance. Let us have faith to carry on, unafraid.

In the spirit of the season and in continuance of an honored custom, I, therefore, proclaim Thursday, November 26, 1931 Thanksgiving Day in the State of Maine.

Governor William Tudor Gardiner - 1932

**Proclamation By The Governor  
Thanksgiving Day, 1932**

It was decreed by our forefathers that a day be set aside to express gratitude to God for the fertility of the land, for the blessings that came to those early settlers after their triumph over hardship. They had learned to make the wisest use of every advantage that Nature gave them and their undaunted spirit of determination reaped for them an abundant harvest. Today we are in grave need of that same spirit. Compared with their resources, ours are, unbounded. This year the harvest of the land is bountiful, yet many of our people are in want. May God give us wisdom to solve our social and economic problems.

Let us not fail those sturdy Puritans who taught perseverance and courage. Let us be thankful for the fruits yielded by many years of progress which, wisely used, should help us to alleviate suffering and to better the conditions of our State and Country.

In continuance of our honored custom, I, therefore, proclaim Thursday, November 24, 1932 Thanksgiving Day in the State of Maine

Governor Louis J. Brann - 1933

**Proclamation By The Governor  
Thanksgiving Day, 1933**

From time immemorial, mankind has paused to give thanks. The race has always expressed gratitude for deliverance and well being.

Prayer and thanksgiving have now replaced vicarious sacrifices.

Our forefathers in the dangerous business of hewing a place for liberty cut of the forests of New England, and in the face of uncertainty and hardship, selected this season of the year to gather in thanksgiving. Those simple thanksgiving days of the Pilgrims have become an institution of a great Nation.

In this year of nineteen hundred and thirty-three, we are at peace with the World. We are slowly emerging from a period of distress and despair. We have conquered fear. Hope is above the horizon.

I urge the people of Maine, according to their individual customs and beliefs, in their homes and places of worship, to meet in a spirit of humble gratitude and thanksgiving.

I, therefore, proclaim Thursday, November 30, 1933 Thanksgiving Day in the State of Maine.

Governor Louis J. Brann - 1934

**Proclamation By The Governor  
Thanksgiving Day**

Mankind has ever cause for giving thanks.

This November finds us with especial reason for gratitude as a people, as a State, and as a Nation. We have survived a great trial. Faith in our kind of government persists and its success in dealing with our problems remains demonstrated. Individually and as a State we *are* better off than we were a year ago. The custom of the founders of this land in setting aside a day for prayer and thoughtful thanksgiving will continue through the years as a sacred obligation of citizenship.

Therefore, I, Louis J. Brann, governor of the state of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 29, 1934 thanksgiving day in the state of Maine.

Governor Louis J. Brann - 1935

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR.  
THANKSGIVING DAY, 1935**

When we, as citizens of the United States and the State of Maine, assess our condition today, we find, every reason for reverent thanksgiving.

We are at peace with the world — determined to remain so — pledged to the arts of peace.

There has been no abridgment of our treasured rights as American citizens — free to speak, to assemble peacefully, and to select our government without interference.

Materially we are in a much better position than the majority of the nations. There has been, in my opinion, a re-awakening to spiritual values. It may even be said that there has been an advance in social justice.

We may well give thanks that America retains, as of old, its sterling courage reflected daily in the lives of its people.

In Maine we have cause to raise our voices in perennial thanksgiving for the great gifts of nature that set this State apart within the Union as a land of abounding beauty, health and happiness.

There are many things if we but pause to count them up for which, as a State and as individuals, we may offer our humble thanks.

Therefore, I, Louis J. Brann, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 28, 1935, Thanksgiving Day in the state of Maine.

Governor Lewis O. Barrows 1939

## **PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR**

WHEREAS, the last Thursday in November of 1780 was designated by President Washington as Thanksgiving Day “believing it 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, President Lincoln in 1663, in the approaching darkest hours of the Civil War, appointed the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day “to consider the gracious gifts of the most high God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy, and

WHEREAS, for three quarters of a century the day so created by our forefathers and perpetuated for posterity has seemingly become sacredly traditional as a national holiday and an occasion for privately and publicly expressing our gratitude to the Great Ruler of the Universe, and

WHEREAS, today in a distressed and chaotic world, we, as a nation, should join in prayerful thanksgiving that we are at peace with ourselves and all nations, manifesting deep hopefulness that concord and happiness may soon come to all the peoples of the world, and

WHEREAS, we of Maine and all New England, in union with other sections of our United States, eager to preserve our freedom and independence, implore Divine deliverance from all impending hostilities and acknowledge with grateful thanks the manifold spiritual, and material gifts with which we have been so generously endowed, and

WHEREAS, in further observance of this revered occasion it has been recommended that our national Flag “as a symbol of the

union of minds aid hearts of all our citizens should be lifted high over public institutions and private homes as a token of patriotic fervor, to the founders of our country,

Therefore, I, Lewis O. Barrows, Governor of Maine, do set aside the last Thursday in November, and do so proclaim, Thursday, November 30, 1939, as Thanksgiving Day in the State of Maine.

## **Proclamation By The Governor**

America approaches another Thanksgiving Day.

While the clouds of war have blackened the skies over Europe, and greed and aggression daily claim their toll of life and destruction, America remains at peace seeking only the preservation of her rights and privileges, respect and honor for her ideals, as she frowns upon every semblance of conquest while she prepares.

Today, as in 1789; we may appeal, as did George Washington in the first presidential proclamation honoring the day to “the great Lord and Ruler of Nations to render our National Government a blessing to all the people,” and “we may then unite in rendering unto His our sincere and humble thanks for his kind care and protection of the people of this Country, and for the signal and manifold mercies and favorable interpositions of His providence....”

From England the Pilgrims brought the custom of the ‘day of prayer and thanksgiving-- established and perpetuated by the English colonists—and today the occasion is celebrated in every community over which flies the American Flag. As we this year tender the spiritual and material, may we as a people again ask that our Nation be preserved from disunion, that the gift of Divine guidance be our possession, and that our courage be sustained in the face of threatening entanglement.

In acknowledging the manifold favors of the year soon to close, we may include, as did President Johnson in 1865, our deliverance “from the calamities of foreign war, pestilence and famine,” and acknowledge with prayer as urged upon the people by President Grant in 1869 that “peace has prevailed, civil and religious liberty

are secured to every citizen of the land, whose soil trod by none but free men.”

In keeping with the unbroken tradition of New England, I, Lewis O. Barrows, Governor of Maine, do set aside and proclaim Thursday, November 28, 1940, as Thanksgiving Day and do urge upon the citizens of our State relaxation from their labors that a part of the day be absorbed in a spirit of thankfulness to the Creator, into whose care we have placed our wants and distresses.

Governor Sumner Sewall - 1943

### **Proclamation By The Governor**

WHEREAS, the annual day for thanksgiving has once again arrived; and

WHEREAS, our land has yielded bountiful harvests in this year of great need; and

WHEREAS, our sons are now achieving magnificent victories throughout the war-torn world; and

WHEREAS, our country still preserves justice and liberty as cornerstones of human living; and

WHEREAS, our citizens continue to be free to speak and pray in accordance with their individual consciences; and

WHEREAS, our pleas and our prayers are now directed toward a policy of cooperating with other peace-loving peoples in establishing organized justice in a free world;

Now, therefore, I, Sumner Sewall, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 25, 1943, as Thanksgiving Day and urge all Maine citizens to observe this day in thoughtful gratitude for our present blessings and in prayerful hope for an early and enduring peace.

Governor Horace Hildreth - 1945

### **Proclamation By The Governor**

The season is at hand for observance of one of the most cherished of our American holidays.

Our Pilgrim forefathers set the pattern for this observance. Having established for themselves a small measure of safety they turned to God to give thanks for the blessings of an abundant harvest, the safety of their loved ones, and their more favorable circumstances.

It is fitting that we continue this time-honored custom of acknowledging our debt to Divine Providence for benefits received and offering prayers for continued guidance.

Seldom have we had greater reason for thankfulness than this year; World War II has ended in victory; our country has escaped the direct blight of war, and our cities and broad fields are intact; our ideals of justice and freedom have triumphed, and our people have shown their steadfast belief in those ideals by willingness to sacrifice even their lives thereof; and our Sons and daughters, rededicated to the faith of our fathers, which supported and comforted them in dark hours of battle, are returning to their homes, With our thanks should be offered our sympathy and our prayers for the loved ones of those who will never return.

In this State, our harvests have been bountiful and the production of our industries unprecedented, enabling us to aid less fortunate peoples all over the world.

Now, therefore, I, Horace Hildreth, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 22, 1945, as Thanksgiving Day, to be observed in devout gratitude to God for our many blessings and humble prayer to Him for our future welfare.

At this time, let us strengthen the bonds of religion, kinship and friendship, and extend charity to others by word and deed.

Governor Horace Hildreth - 1946

**Proclamation by the Governor**

WHEREAS, it is the season for the second Thanksgiving Day to be observed since the cessation of war; and

WHEREAS, during this period of transition from war to peace, we humbly ask for Divine Guidance in making our adjustments to life in a new and different world; and

WHEREAS, on this especially appointed day we are following a precedent set long ago by a grateful people who, like us, rejoiced in the great material benefits with which they were blessed, and for calamity diverted: and

WHEREAS, we give thanks, not only for abundant harvests on land and in the sea, but also that as a free people we are able to make our contribution in building the kind of world we hope for;

Now, therefore, I, Horace Hildreth, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 28, 1946, as Thanksgiving Day, to be observed in the spirit of faith that we inherit and share; the faith that leads us to gather at our respective places of worship to express our gratitude for the opportunity afforded us to build enduring peace and security, and to pray for understanding and guidance along the path to the future that is ours.

Governor Horace Hildreth - 1947

### **State Of Maine Proclamation By The Governor**

WHEREAS, the season in which traditionally the people of Maine join the people of our sister states in observing Thanksgiving is upon us; and

WHEREAS, the people of Maine have especial reason to give thanks that in our recent disaster the cost in human lives, though deplorable, was low; and

WHEREAS, the emergency revealed the finer qualities of the brotherhood of man in helpfulness to one another seldom recalled in our State's history; and

WHEREAS, on this especially appointed day we follow a precedent set long ago by a grateful people who, in their time, rejoiced even as we today rejoice, in the material benefits with which they were blessed; and

WHEREAS, we give thanks in this present day, not only for the material wealth that comes to us as God's bounty, but for the opportunity at hand to help alleviate the sufferings of untold millions across the seas in lands where the wrongs of mankind have prevented the normal pursuits of self— preservation;

Now, therefore, I, Horace Hildreth, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 27, 1947 as Thanksgiving Day to be observed in the spirit of faith that we inherit and share; the faith that leads us to gather at our respective places of worship to express our gratitude for the opportunity afforded us to build enduring peace and security, and to pray for understanding and guidance along the path to the future that is ours and our children's. I ask that in preparation for our own rejoicing, we remember the sad plight of others less fortunate; that through our churches each Maine family donate gifts of money or as much nourishing canned food as they can spare to be sent abroad, and in

this manner invite the undernourished people of impoverished lands to be our absent guests on this day, regardless of race, color or creed. Let us remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Governor Horace Hildreth – 1948

### **Proclamation By The Governor**

WHEREAS, the season is at hand wherein by custom and with gratitude the citizens of Maine join those of all the states in observance of Thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, we have been blessed in abundance with spiritual and material needs and comforts; and

WHEREAS, we enjoy the priceless heritage of political freedom, and may in good will help the peoples of the world to understand and to desire that manifestation of true brotherhood; and

WHEREAS, our people hold fast to their belief in the dignity of the individual in a world which sorely needs rebirth of faith in mankind, under God; and

WHEREAS, the desire for a just peace, and for love and understanding among all peoples is strong in the hearts of the people of Maine; and

WHEREAS, we desire to express our thankfulness for these manifold blessings which have come to us as God's gift, and to ask that that beneficence may be felt in the hearts of all men;

Now, therefore, I, Horace Hildreth, governor of the state of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 25, 1948 as Thanksgiving Day that we may fittingly observe that day in the churches of our choice, grateful for the privilege of free worship; that we may join in heartfelt prayer on this day of Thanksgiving that freedom may one day be extended to all races and to all nations; that we may ask that out of that prayer may come a world in which peace, freedom of spirit, and freedom from material want may be the lot of all mankind.

Let us count our blessings on this Thanksgiving Day and resolve to share our material bounty with those who suffer in other lands, giving, as neighbors, as much as we can — through our churches and our humanitarian organizations — for the relief of hunger, of suffering and deprivation among those of other lands. And let us mark the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas as ones especially devoted to the reading of the Holy Scriptures so that we may truly feel and express the spirit of Thanksgiving which is our precious heritage.

Governor Frederick G. Payne - 1949

### **Proclamation By The Governor**

WHEREAS, it is the privilege and duty of rational beings to publicly acknowledge the wisdom of the Creator and the beneficence of His providence; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the usage of our ancestors and following the dictates of our own consciences, it is customary to observe a special Day of Thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, our State has been blessed by another Harvest Season with bumper crops, and wherein treasures of the great deep have rewarded our fishermen; and

WHEREAS, by the Grace of God our nation has been at peace for the past twelve months in accordance with the earnest prayers and entreaties of our people; and

WHEREAS, in the words of our first Governor, “we behold in this Country a people prosperous in their industry and happy under rulers of their own choice, and laws of their own making, and in the midst of present tranquility gladden with the prospect of a lengthened period of happiness and repose”;

Now, therefore, I, Frederick G. Payne, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 24, 1949, as Thanksgiving Day and hereby urge that all of our citizens congregating in Churches of their choice, give abundant thanks for blessings both spiritual and material which have been bestowed upon us by an all- wise Creator in spite of our sins of omission and commission, and request that during this last full week in November, appropriate observances be held in schools, service clubs and fraternal groups to express our humble appreciation of all our blessings.

Governor Frederick G. Payne - 1950

### **Proclamation By The Governor**

WHEREAS, it has been the custom since the pilgrims first came to America to devote one day of giving thanks for our numerous blessings; and

WHEREAS, world affairs make us realize more forcibly the many, many causes for rejoicing that we, living in a democracy, are fortunate to possess; and

WHEREAS, our State has once again produced an outstanding harvest; and

WHEREAS, we, as a people, should acknowledge the blessings the Almighty Lord has bestowed upon us and offer our humble thanks to God and pray that people everywhere may some day be equally endowed as are we, of this nation;

Now, therefore, I, Frederick G. Payne, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 23, 1950, as Thanksgiving Day and request that appropriate observances be planned in our churches, homes and schools on this sacred and traditional day in appreciation of our divine benefits.

Governor Frederick G. Payne - 1951

### **Proclamation By The Governor**

WHEREAS, our forefathers decreed that one day each year be set aside for the purpose of expressing our gratitude to God for the many blessings with which we are endowed; and

WHEREAS, the same perseverance and courage, which carried the Puritans through their hardships, is needed today to lead us through the international strife which is threatening our democratic way of life; and

WHEREAS, our natural resources are still undeveloped, in many instances, and our crops and harvest have been exceptionally bountiful; and

WHEREAS, we should be thankful for the progress made in agriculture over the years, which has truly made this a "land of plenty," and give thanks to our good Lord for the wisdom and guidance which have carried us through social and economic upheavals, and pray that He continue to guide us through the difficult period ahead;

Now, therefore, I, Frederick G. Payne, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 22, 1951, as Thanksgiving Day and urge appropriate observances in our churches, homes and schools in continuance of our honored custom and as an expression of appreciation for the numerous blessings which are ours.

Governor Frederick G. Payne - 1952

**Proclamation by the Governor**

WHEREAS, we in Maine and in America are privileged to live, work, and play in one of the greatest countries in the world; and

WHEREAS, we not only can know the ideals of freedom and democracy but can experience the joy of living and teaching them; and

WHEREAS, our Father in Heaven has seen fit to give so abundantly of that which is necessary and good for our welfare and has so successfully protected us from outside tyranny; and

WHEREAS, it is a wonderful tradition established by those who first discovered the bounties of our land to set aside one day each year for us to count our blessings and to give thanks to Almighty God;

Now, therefore, I, Frederick G. Payne, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 27, 1952 as Thanksgiving Day and urge appropriate observances in our churches, homes and schools in continuance of our honored custom and as an expression of appreciation for the numerous blessings which are ours.

Governor Burton M. Cross - 1953

### **Proclamation By The Governor**

WHEREAS, it was decreed by our forefathers that one day each year be set aside to express gratitude to All Mighty God for the fertility of the land, and for the blessings bestowed upon the early settlers after their triumph over hardship; and

WHEREAS, they had learned to make the wisest use of every advantage given them by nature, and their spirit of determination reaped for them an abundant harvest; and

WHEREAS, our harvest of this year has once again been plentiful, and we have been able to share this harvest with people throughout the world less fortunate; and

WHEREAS, our Father in Heaven has protected this great nation from tyranny and has allowed us to enjoy full liberty, freedom and justice;

Now, therefore, I, Burton M. Cross, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 26, 1953, as Thanksgiving Day and urge that we, as citizens of Maine, unite in prayer and thankfulness for the many blessings which are ours, and hope that the people of the world will join us in a peaceful solution of our collective problems.

Governor Burton M. Cross - 1954

**Proclamation By The Governor**

WHEREAS, it has been the custom down through the years to set aside one day for the purpose of giving thanks to Almighty God for our blessings; and

WHEREAS, this is the first time in many years that we have no aggression in the world, for which we should all give a special prayer of thanks; and

WHEREAS, a concerted effort is being made to assure the continuance of world peace and to bring about a better understanding between the peoples of the world; and

WHEREAS, we, in the United States, have enjoyed and are blessed with the right to live in a nation that is free from tyranny and oppression, and have the right to liberty, freedom of speech and justice;

Now, therefore, I, Burton M. Cross, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 25, 1954, as Thanks Giving Day and urge the people of Maine to unite in humble prayer of thankfulness for our manifold blessings and to pray for the continuance of world peace and understanding.

## **Proclamation**

When nearly three centuries ago the first settlers came to the country which has now become this great republic they fronted not only hardship and privation, but terrible risk to their lives. In those grim years the custom grew of setting apart one day in each year for a special service of thanksgiving to the Almighty for preserving the people through the changing seasons. The custom has now become national and hallowed by immemorial usage. We live in easier and more plentiful times than our forefathers, the men who with rugged strength faced the rugged days; and yet the dangers to national life are quite as great now as at any previous time in our history.

It is eminently fitting that once a year our people should set apart a day for praise and thanksgiving to the Almighty, and at the same time that they express their thanksgiving for the abundant mercies received should manfully acknowledge their shortcomings and pledge themselves solemnly and in good faith to strive to overcome them.

Now, therefore, I, Edmund S. Muskie, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 24, 1955, as Thanksgiving Day and urge that we, as citizens of Maine, unite in prayer and thankfulness for the many blessings which are ours, and hope that the people of the world will join us in a peaceful solution of our collective problems.

