

COMMONWEALTH OF *MASSACHUSETTS.*

By His EXCELLENCY

**JOHN HANCOCK, Esq;**

Governor of the Commonwealth of *MASSACHUSETTS.*

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**PROCLAMATION,**

**FOR A DAY OF PUBLIC FASTING AND PRAYER.**

**I**T has been the laudable Practice of this Country, to open the Business of the Year, by setting apart a Day for Religious Exercise, thereby to implore the Blessing of GOD upon all the Undertakings of his People; this Usage hath been peculiarly suitable to the interesting and alarming State of our public Affairs during the War, when, amidst our Prayers for the common and ordinary Blessings of Life, we continually have had Occasion to supplicate the extraordinary Aid and Protection of the Almighty, against the imminent Dangers to which we have been exposed, from the Attempts of those who have arisen up against us: He hath been graciously pleased to hear our Prayers, and not only to Deliver us from the Destruction with which we were Threatned, but also to remove all further Apprehensions of Danger, by disposing the King of Great-Britain to Acknowledge the Independence of the *United States of America*, and together with the other Belligerent Powers, to agree upon the Terms of a **PEACE**, which, under Divine Providence, will lay a firm and lasting Foundation for our Security; at such a Time then, it is peculiarly fit and becoming for us as a People, while we express our Gratitude to Almighty GOD for his numerous and unmerited Favors, to humble ourselves before Him for our manifold Sins, and to profess our intire Dependence upon his paternal Care, beseeching Him to give us his Grace that we may be enabled to improve his Mercies to his Honor and Glory:

**WHEREFORE** I have thought fit to appoint, and with the Advice and Consent of the Council, I do hereby appoint **THURSDAY** the **FIFTEENTH DAY OF MAY** next ensuing, to be a Day of **FASTING** and **PRAYER** throughout this Commonwealth, calling upon Ministers and People of all Denominations to assemble together on that Day, and with one Heart and one Voice to humble themselves before the Throne of Grace, confessing their Sins and imploring Forgiveness of the same, and beseeching Almighty **GOD**, That he would be pleased to continue his Gracious Providence over us; especially, That he would prosper the Councils of the Congress, and of the General Assembly of this State, giving them Wisdom, Firmness and Unanimity, and directing them to the best Measures for the public Good: That he would please to preserve and strengthen our Union, bless our Allies, and render the Connection formed by the United States and those Nations, a mutual and lasting Benefit to all: That he would be pleased to inspire all our Magistrates with Wisdom and Integrity, and the People with a fervent and disinterested Love to their Country, and with a Spirit of Unity, that so being mindful of the great Things **GOD** has done for them during the War, they may make a right Use of the Blessings of **PEACE**: That he would be pleased to bless our Husbandry, to revive and prosper our Trade, Navigation and Fishery: And that he would crown the Year with his Goodness, and bless us with Health and Plenty: That he would bless all Schools and Seminaries of Learning, and above all that he would be pleased to give us true Repentance, to forgive us all our Sins and induce us with his Grace, that we may amend our Lives according to his Word: And finally that he would over-rule all Events to the Advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and the Establishment of Universal Peace and good Will among men.

And it is earnestly recommended to all People throughout this Commonwealth, to observe said Day as a Day set apart for Religious Worship, and to abstain from all servile Labor or Recreation thereon.

*GIVEN at the Council-Chamber in BOSTON, this Twenty-Third Day of April, in the Year of our LORD One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-Three, and in the Seventh Year of the INDEPENDENCE of the UNITED STATES of AMERICA.*

**JOHN HANCOCK.**

By His Excellency's Command,

With the Advice and Consent of the **COUNCIL,**

**JOHN AVERY, jun.** Secretary.

**GOD SAVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!**