

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN A. ANDREW,

GOVERNOR:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

BY and with the advice and consent of the Council, I do hereby appoint THURSDAY, the 24th day of November next, to be observed throughout this Commonwealth as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise.

I cordially and earnestly invite the people of Massachusetts,—uniting with all the people of our common country, whose patriotic loyalty and whose religious faith and convictions combine to inspire their hearts with the spirit of devout thanksgiving and joyful gratitude for the national and temporal benefactions, as well as for the personal and spiritual blessings, of the year,—to lift up their hearts with one accord in solemn and grateful adoration to Him who lives in the Heavens and rules the Universe, but who has condescended to our own estate, who has owned and visited and redeemed the children of men.

For the innumerable mercies of divine forbearance and love; for the tender sympathies and associations of home and household; for the ties and affections of friendship; for the examples and testimonies of the noble, the brave, and the good, who have instructed and encouraged our hearts, who have lived with us on earth, and who, offering their lives in devoted sacrifice for mankind, have passed beyond mortality, but who, though dead, yet speak to us; for the fruits and the feast of nature; for the gifts and faculties of mind and hand, and of every art which helps our conquest and mastery over poverty and want, over disease and accident, over ignorance and wrong; for all our capacities of enjoyment and happiness; for all our opportunities of activity and usefulness; for all the sunshine and the rain; for the strength vouchsafed to us in the experiences of affliction, not less than in the delights of our happiest days; for the revelation of duty; for the bliss of being, and for the hope of immortality; let us unite with heart and voice in prayers and songs of grateful and adoring praise.

Let us kindle afresh in the sublime devotions of the sanctuary the fires of patriotic love of country, the pure flame of unselfish consecration to the cause of her honor and welfare.

Let us learn to feel it sweet and honorable to encounter all peril, toil, and difficulty in her behalf, whether in bearing forward the ensign of her power against her enemies, or in harmonizing the policy of her rulers and the sentiments of her people with the venerable traditions and the immortal principles of justice, humanity, freedom, and sacred right, taught by the fathers of the Republic, vindicated by generations of heroes, sealed by the blood of martyrs, preached by every branch of the Church in all ages, wherever the sanctions of religion have triumphed over the devices of men.

Given at the Council Chamber, in Boston, this thirty-first day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and the eighty-ninth of the Independence of the United States of America.

JOHN A. ANDREW.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR,
WITH THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL. }

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.