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**Commonwealth of**

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**Massachusetts.**

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**BY HIS EXCELLENCY**

**JOHN DAVIS,**

**Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**

# **A PROCLAMATION**

**FOR A DAY OF**

## **PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.**

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IN compliance with ancient usage in our good Commonwealth, and by the advice and consent of the Council, I appoint **THURSDAY, the TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT**, to be observed as a day of *Thanksgiving and Praise* to Almighty God, for the manifold blessings and mercies which have been vouchsafed to us during the past year:—And I entreat all the people of this Commonwealth to manifest their gratitude, by assembling in their places of public worship, and presenting to their Maker the pure incense of thankful hearts.

It becomes all, who have a just sense of human infirmity, to acknowledge, with profound gratitude, their dependence upon our Heavenly Father, for the preservation of life—for a propitious season, in which the earth has yielded its bounties—for the success of useful labor, and laudable enterprises, by land and by sea—for exemption from pestilential diseases—for the steady progress of moral and intellectual improvement—for inclining the hearts of men to cherish the love of peace, of charity, and of friendly intercourse—for the zeal manifested in disseminating the religion of the Blessed Redeemer—for strengthening the hopes and encouraging the hearts of mankind, by the continued

advancement of civil and religious liberty—and for the many consolations which smooth the rugged path of life, and invite us to pursue the ways of virtue.

And, as we are commanded, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, to let our requests be made known to God, it is a suitable occasion to implore, that the inestimable privileges which we enjoy, as a free people, may be perpetuated—that we, as a people, by a watchful observance of our duties, may prove ourselves worthy of such privileges—that the means employed to enlarge the sphere of human usefulness, and to diffuse the beneficent principles of Christianity, may be efficacious—that wars and other scourges may be averted—that oppression, injustice, selfishness, and violence may cease—that benevolence and charity may everywhere abound—and that the nations of the earth may live together as one harmonious family, cherishing the best sympathies of our nature, and establishing, in the hearts of all, the love of truth, of humanity, and of equal rights.

And I request all persons to observe the day in a manner becoming a Christian people.

***Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this first day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, and of the Independence of the United States the sixty-sixth.***

**JOHN DAVIS.**

By His Excellency the Governor, with the advice }  
and consent of the Council. }

**JOHN P. BIGELOW, Secretary of the State.**

**GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS!**