
Commonwealth of



1842

Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

JOHN DAVIS,

Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

AT this period, when the crops are gathered in, and the labors of the season terminating, it has been customary to assign a day for such festivities as become a grateful and Christian people. I, therefore, in compliance with this usage, and by the advice and consent of the Council, have appointed **THURSDAY, the TWENTY-FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER NEXT**, to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise, and do exhort the people of this Commonwealth to assemble in their places of worship, with hearts penetrated with gratitude to Almighty God, the Giver of all good, for the signal manifestations of his mercy and superintending care—for the preservation of our lives, and the enjoyment of the multiplied blessings which have been conferred upon us—for the fulfilment of the promise to his humble and dependent creatures, that seed-time and harvest shall not fail—for strengthening the hands and encouraging the hearts of laborers, by rewarding their toils with his bounty—for crowning with success many moral and useful enterprises—for promoting the happiness of our race, by strengthening in the hearts of the people the love of liberty and equality—for disposing the councils of nations to the maintenance of peace, the support of justice, and the cultivation of good fellowship—for averting the calamities of war, pestilence, and wasting sickness—for awakening, in the minds of many, the love of charity—a zeal for practical benevolence, and the cultivation of those social virtues which improve, purify, and elevate the

soul—for giving success to the measures adopted to spread over the earth the religion of his blessed Son, our Saviour and Redeemer.

And while we thus, with a becoming sense of our dependence, offer our tribute of gratitude by Thanksgiving and Praise, let us not omit to implore our Heavenly Father that he will vouchsafe the continuance of the great favors and blessings which we enjoy—that we may still live under his protection, and venerate his holy name—that he will, in the exercise of his mercy, regard our frailties with compassion, and forgive our transgressions—that the love of truth, of peace, of justice, of charity, and of Christian benevolence may inspire a zeal in all our race to live together as a united and harmonious family—that the liberties and privileges secured to us may gain new strength by being justly appreciated, may spread over the face of the earth, and be enjoyed by all mankind—that moral and intellectual culture may advance with increased energy, and be thus more largely instrumental in disseminating the principles of liberty and of the Christian faith—that we may never be unmindful of our duties as accountable beings, not forgetting to cultivate sedulously those virtues and graces which adorn the human character, nor to accord to the great Ruler of the universe Thanksgiving and Praise for his goodness and mercy.

And I exhort all people within the Commonwealth to observe the day in a manner suited to its character.

Given at the Council Chamber in Boston, this sixteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, and of the Independence of the United States the sixty-seventh.

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!