



The Washington Flyer
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*“Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love and his wondrous works to the children of men.”
Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31*

Special Thanksgiving Message

Thanksgiving is a uniquely American holiday, with its roots pointing to a Thanksgiving feast shared by the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians in 1621. Governor William Bradford initiated the feast to celebrate a good harvest after a year of hardship incurred from their travel to the new land and a harsh winter. His writing of the event noted the plentiful food they had, and a second account written by Edward Winslow [recorded](#) their thanks to God: *“And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.*

Notably, the gratitude expressed did not just name **what** they were thankful **for**, but also **whom** they were thankful **to** for their blessings. This is also reflected in the first official [Thanksgiving Proclamation](#) by Governor Bradford two years later in 1623. He describes the bountiful harvest, points to God as the provider and protector of the Pilgrims, and also calls for a special gathering to specifically offer thanksgiving to God.

Governor Bradford of Massachusetts made this first Thanksgiving Proclamation three years after the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth:

“Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.

Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the daytime, on Thursday, November 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty three and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.”

*William Bradford
Ye Governor of Ye Colony*

Our Thanksgiving holiday today follows the example of feasting and gathering, and a reminder to reflect and offer thanks for the good things we enjoy. Let us also remember that “every good and perfect gift is from above” (James 1:17) and thank our great and loving God for His abundant blessings to us.

Of our blessings, we are thankful for you, our readers, and for your support of Christian education. We pray you have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

Next Week: Giving Tuesday!

Next Tuesday, **December 3, is Giving Tuesday!** We will be hosting an opportunity to support our [AACSYouth Legislative Training Conference](#) through our social media accounts ([Facebook @AACSEduates](#) and [Instagram \(@yltc_aacs\)](#)). As you participate in Giving Tuesday this year, we appreciate your consideration of supporting this great program. A gift now is an [investment](#) in the leaders of our future!

In Case You Missed It:

[Weekly Market Update](#) provided by Jeff Beach of the [AACSI Investment Team at Merrill Lynch](#)

[Practical Legal Help for Christian Schools: ADF Ministry Alliance](#)

[Prayers and Proclamations Throughout American History](#)