



Heartbeats along the way: The Ever-living Heart

Psalm 22:26. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever!

This is the week of Thanksgiving. Pilgrims, Indians, corn, turkey, cranberry relish, non-stop shopping and football games. (Oops, got carried away.) It's been a tradition at our house to share this day with family, as it is for many of us. The first Thanksgiving was a feast of faith and gratitude for preserving those first settlers whose numbers had been halved by disease and malnourishment. Every one of those gathered around the tables was grateful that God had spared and provided for them.

You know how far we've come from that day of remembrance and gratitude. We bless the meal, gorge ourselves, and break into small bands of cleanup crew, snoozers, shoppers, and sports fans. We go on our way that day never looking back on how this day became so especially important to the DNA of this nation.

This Thanksgiving, let's do two different things. First, as Pastor Mira suggested, take five. Take five minutes to be still before God. Think of God's cornucopia of blessings to you, your family, our church, and our nation.

Second, since CUMC has contributed food and money to help Project SHARE provide others a fulsome Thanksgiving meal, pray for Project SHARE and the recipients. At least in that way we can repeat the verse above without being embarrassed. May your hearts live forever in the love of God and in the work of serving others.

Washington's and Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamations are on the back. It's uncanny how appropriate they are for us today.

"Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices. May we provide bread for the body and through Jesus Christ, the bread of Heaven to satisfy the souls of all who hunger for salvation. Amen."

~ cl reynolds

Excerpt from Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation Oct 3 1789.

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of...the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country...for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have...enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have...established a National [constitution]...for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed...and...for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us. And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed...To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science...and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

—George Washington

Excerpt from Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation Oct 3 1863.

I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him,... they do also...commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it...to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union.