

The Anglican Church in America

Thanksgiving Message, November 24, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I bring you the blessings of Thanksgiving and a prayer that you may all have a holy and blessed Advent.

Thanksgiving Day is our national holiday, one that is often most associated with harvest festivals and family gatherings. Our modern Thanksgiving was, as many of us know, a relatively late development. Its first official observance happened just under one hundred and fifty years ago during a time of great national conflict. The cost in human life and suffering at that time was indeed great. Yet, in spite of all the difficulties, thanksgiving was offered to God for His great bounty. It is curious that, in the midst of such a period of trial, time was taken to set apart a day for thanksgiving.

It is a message to us that, on this particular day, a day that has been overlaid with images of Pilgrims, turkey and thoughts of Christmas, we set apart our time to pray and to thank God for all that has been given to us.

From the first chapter of *Genesis*, we learn that God, when He surveyed the world and all that was therein, proclaimed His creation good.

On this particular day, a day set apart for thanks, we can do no less than reflect upon the bounty given to us by a loving God who proclaims the goodness of all creation.

Your Brother in Christ,

+Brian
Presiding Bishop