

# State of Massachusetts-Bay.

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## P R O C L A M A T I O N

For a Day of public **THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER.**

**I**T having pleased Almighty GOD, the Father of Mercies, amidst the Calamities of the present War, to bestow upon this, and the other UNITED AMERICAN STATES, many great and invaluable Blessings,—it becomes a People so highly favour'd of the LORD, especially at the Close of a fruitful Year, to express their grateful Sense of the divine Goodness, by public **THANKSGIVING and PRAISE** :

**W**E have therefore thought fit, with Advice of the Council, and at the Desire of the House of Representatives, to appoint, and do hereby appoint, **THURSDAY** the Twentieth Day of *November* next, to be observed as a Day of **THANKSGIVING and PRAYER** throughout this State ; hereby calling upon Ministers and People, of every Denomination, to convene on the said Day, and with humble Devotion, Gratitude and Praise, acknowledge the many Mercies bestowed upon us by our munificent Benefactor ; particularly, that he hath, notwithstanding our great Unworthiness, blessed us with Health in our Dwellings, our Army and our Navy ; and that the Earth hath yielded her Increase in such uncommon Plenty ; and that he hath so far supported us in our Exertions against the arbitrary Claims and military Violence of *Britain* ; and especially in a late Instance of Divine Interposition, in which the Arm of the LORD of Hosts and GOD of Armies very conspicuously appears, hath given us a compleat Victory over a whole Army of our Enemies ; hereby teaching us firmly to rely upon Him whose is the Power, and the Glory, and the Victory : That he hath preserv'd the Lives of so many of our Officers and Soldiers, and especially the important Life of our illustrious Commander in Chief ; that the Union of the Independent *American* States is not only preserved, but appears more and more permanent ; and above all, that we yet enjoy the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ in meridian Brightness ; a Compliance with the reasonable Requisitions of which will introduce us to the Freedom and Felicity of a far better Country.

And we hereby recommend to, and enjoin it upon Ministers and People, deeply to abate themselves under a Sense of their Sins and Unworthiness ; lamenting the many Offences by which this People have forfeited all Pretensions to the Divine Favor ; humbly imploring Forgiveness, through the Merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, and that GOD would be pleased, by the Influences of his Spirit, to lead us to the Knowledge and Practice of Truth and Righteousness ; that he would inspire our Enemies with the Spirit of that merciful Religion they profess ; that he would continue to support our righteous Cause, and speedily, if it be his holy Will, establish, on a permanent Basis, our Independence, Peace and Happiness ; that *America* may become for the Equity of its civil Government, the Purity of its Morals, and the Practice of the Religion of Jesus, the Glory of all Lands, and the Joy of the whole Earth ;—that every Species of Tyranny may be abolished from the World, and all Mankind made happy in the Enjoyment of that Religion which is Righteousness and Peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost.

And all servile Labour is hereby forbidden on the said Day.

*G I V E N* at the COUNCIL-CHAMBER in *Boston*, the Twentieth Day of *October*, in the Year of our LORD, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy seven.

By their Honor's Command,

**JOHN AVERY**, Dep'y. Sec'y.

**JEREMIAH POWELL,**  
**ARTEMAS WARD,**  
**RICHARD DERBY, Jun'r,**  
**THOMAS CUSHING,**  
**SAMUEL HOLTEN,**  
**JABEZ FISHER,**  
**MOSES GILL,**  
**JOHN TAYLOR,**  
**BENJAMIN WHITE,**  
**BENJAMIN AUSTIN,**  
**HENRY GARDNER,**  
**DAVID SEWALL,**  
**DANIEL HOPKINS,**  
**NATHAN CUSHING,**  
**TIMOTHY EDWARDS,**  
**ABRAHAM FULLER.**

**G O D S A V E T H E A M E R I C A N S T A T E S !**