

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

ALEXANDER H. RICE,

GOVERNOR:

# A PROCLAMATION

FOR A DAY OF  
PUBLIC THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.

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For nearly two hundred years, the people of Massachusetts have set apart a day in each Autumnal Season, for the special celebration of their love and gratitude to the Lord of the Harvest, for His blessing upon the labors of the husbandman, and for the ingathering of the fruits of the earth.

In continuance of this ancient and pious example, I hereby appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Council, THURSDAY, THE THIRTIETH DAY OF NOVEMBER, INSTANT, to be observed as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to Almighty God for the bounties of His Providence and the riches of His Grace.

With fervent hearts and melodious songs let the people of the Commonwealth, on that day, turn from secular avocations to the temples of the Lord. O go your way into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His Courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and speak good of His name! For the Lord is gracious, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endureth from generation to generation.

Praise Him that the Republic, with increasing vigor and strength, has passed its Centennial Anniversary, and is consecrated anew in the affection and patriotism of its people; that the Commonwealth abides by the principles of justice, of liberty, and of charity; that in the brighter illumination which knowledge is shedding through the world, Science appears as the handmaid of Religion, and the visible Universe as the interpreter and counterpart of Revelation. Let us praise Him for freedom from pestilence and famine. Praise Him for whatever measure of success has attended the pursuits of our people; for the liberality of those who have come to the relief of honest poverty; for the courage and fortitude which have sustained the unemployed and the disappointed; and for the cheering tokens of returning prosperity. Praise Him for the blessing of peace and fellowship with all mankind; for every triumph of virtue; for every vice forsaken; and for the holy gifts and influences which strengthen and refresh the soul. And finally, let us praise Him for all the perils that are past, for the faith that survives, and for the inspiring and beckoning hopes of immortality.

GIVEN AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, IN BOSTON, this First Day of November, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the One Hundred and First.

ALEXANDER H. RICE.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, WITH THE ADVICE OF THE COUNCIL.

HENRY B. PEIRCE, *Secretary.*

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.