

Redeeming Times
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New Bedford Presbyterian Church
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FIRST PRESIDENTIAL THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

George Washington – January 1, 1795

George Washington, President of the United States do recommend to all religious societies and denominations, and to all persons whomsoever, within the United States, to set apart and observe Thursday, the 19th day of February next, as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, and on that day to meet together and render sincere and hearty thanks to the great Ruler of nations for the manifold and signal mercies which distinguishes our lot as a nation; particularly for the possession of constitutions of government which unite and by their union establish liberty with order for the preservation of our peace...and generally for the prosperous condition of our affairs, public and private, and at the same time humbly and fervently beseech the kind Author of those blessings graciously to prolong them to us; to imprint on our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our obligations to Him for them, to teach us rightly to estimate their immense value; to preserve from arrogance of prosperity, and from hazarding the advantages we enjoy by delusive pursuits, to dispose us to merit the continuance of His favors by not abusing them by our gratitude for them, and as men to render this country more and more safe and propitious asylum for the unfortunate of other countries; to extend among us true sobriety, order, morality, and piety, and finally to impart all the blessings we possess or ask of ourselves to the whole family of mankind.

1 Chronicles 16:8

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name;
make known among the nations what He has done.*