

11-23-22 Thanks Giving Eve Service

Hymn #40 We Gather Together

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Psalms 92:1 {A Psalm [or] Song for the sabbath day.} [It is a] good [thing] to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

Psalms 92:2 To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,

Psalms 92:3 Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound.

Psalms 92:4 For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

Psalms 92:5 O LORD, how great are thy works! [and] thy thoughts are very deep.

Psalms 136:1 O give thanks unto the LORD; for [he is] good: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

Psalms 136:2 O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

Psalms 136:3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy [endureth] for ever.

INTRO:

This is what we call our Thanksgiving eve service. We gather together to give thanks to our Lord in his house with his people. This is the best and most important way we can show our thanks to God.

There are very few holidays that have a good history behind them. Thanksgiving is one of those holidays that looks back to our foundation as a nation. That foundation is a good foundation.

Here is the History of the first Thanksgiving ever celebrated in this country..

By the end of the first summer of 1621, the Lord had given the settlers a good harvest. It was through the private Bible readings of Governor William Bradford that the first Thanksgiving was appointed. Two passages of Scripture were used to stir his heart. The first is found in Deuteronomy 16:13:

Thou shalt observe the feast of tabernacles . . . after that thou hast gathered in thy corn.

Another passage is found in Deuteronomy 16:14:

And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter . . . and the stranger.

Sometime between September and mid-November three days were set aside for a time of thanksgiving. These days were filled with the reading of Scripture and prayer, as well as the feasting from the bounty of providence. Even approximately ninety Indians were invited for this Feast of Thanksgiving.

Notice the Biblical basis of the first Thanksgiving. The governor was reading his Bible and decided to set this holiday up in the pattern of the feast of tabernacles.

What is interesting about this first Thanksgiving is that the Pilgrims decided to celebrate it under the most unusual circumstances.

THEIR BACKGROUND

The Pilgrims as you know were a small and persecuted sect of believers.
Page 108 separatists: Read:

1. 1620

John Carver was their first leader survived the first winter after the Mayflower landed and was working in the fields in the spring of 1621 when he complained of a head ache and went home to lie down and apparently died of a comma.

About half of the pilgrims died that first year when they landed. Could you imagine burying half of the people you know and are close to and then wanting to celebrate a day of thanksgiving to God.

William Bradford = then became the new leader and governor of the colony.
John Robinson = Pastor
John Howland = Men like

These early settlers had a very difficult time they were persecuted, had migrated from England to Holland, suffered difficulties and now seeking refuge and something better set out for the New World.

If anyone would have been tempted to complain it could have been these early settlers. Imagine in that day if you were in your 40's you were considered an old man.

2. In 1620 when they resolved to come to America the whole fellowship of this sect only numbered about 1000 people.. This was not a great mass of people that came here.

- 3. It was resolved in 1620 that about 1/3 of a 600 member congregation in Holland would come to America and send for the rest after a settlement was established, About 200 set off and in the end because of problems with their ship the speed well only about 100 set off to come to the America.**

August 5th 1620 they set sail for the New World on the the Speedwell, which had serious problems, it was sold, and the group of Pilgrims was narrowed to about 102

- 4. 102 Pilgrims crowded into a small compartment aboard, the Mayflower, which was about the size of a volley ball court....**

This trip was not without it's trials and in fact most groups suffered great losses in such a journey.. But miraculously none of them died on the trip.

- 5. November 11th 1620 they dropped anchor at Cap Cod, and established a settlement that they called Plymouth,**

It was a miraculous finding because the Patuxet Indians all died off and the other Indians thought that area cursed and never resettled it.

- 6. That first winter, 47 of the 102 Pilgrims died, and it was only by the grace of God that a colony was established at all.....**

Very first thing they built..

Nov.. built a common house... Church, meeting hall, hospital

Dec. Got colder.. Pilgrims started dying

6 died in Dec

8 died Jan

Jan Fire in common house, Hospital

Feb 2 died every day

Feb 4th 4 people died

Coles Hill became cemetery ... buried dead late at night

By March 47/ 102 had died

Then in March early spring they had a visitor Samoset a friendly Indian came and told them the story of the strange land they were in:

Patuxet indians died strange plague.... Squanto

How Squanto helped the pilgrims:

7. The first Thanksgiving day was declared by Governor Bradford to be held sometime in October of 1621, The friendly MASSASOIT Indians were invited

Now in light of this we need to realize that we have much to be thankful for....

No doubt according to God's word one of the worst sins that plagues the Human race is a spirit of Unthankfulness:

Now in light of this we need to realize that we have much to be thankful for and what a blessed history we have in this holiday we call Thanksgiving.

Consider of these 57 Pilgrim survivors.. they could have done a lot of complaining that first Thanksgiving.. Yet instead they were grateful to God..

Today we look back at this small group of people like they were heroes... I don't think they would have ever thought themselves to be that at all.. They were just a small group of believers who set out to do what they believed God wanted them to do ..

They were not rich or nobleman..

They were not ambitious entrepreneurs.. looking to make their fortune in the new world..

All they wanted to was to live for God raise a family and be free to do so..

This is the History behind the Holiday that we are going to celebrate .. this Thursday...

In 1789, President George Washington issued a Thanksgiving Day Proclamation to commemorate the first Pilgrim celebration. However, Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, discontinued it, calling Thanksgiving "a kingly practice." It was not until 1826 that Mrs. Hale, the editor of a leading magazine and author of the poem "Mary Had a Little Lamb," began campaigning for the restoration of Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Finally, in 1863, President Lincoln listened seriously to her plea that the North and South "lay aside enmities and strife on Thanksgiving Day." He

proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November to be the official "National Thanksgiving Day."

I want to read for you the proclamation of Abraham Lincoln who during the civil war made a proclamation to celebrate a day of Thanksgiving again in our nation ...

**`A Proclamation. by Abraham Lincoln..
Making Thanks Giving a national Holiday.. 1863**

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

(Lincoln goes on to share.. the blessings God has given in spite of the terrible civil war.)

Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascription justly due to Him for such singular deliverance and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, 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 as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the Unites States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln

What a blessed history we have as we think back to the founders of our nation and those that gave us this holiday. I wonder if these people were to visit us in 2022 whether they would be looking for another America? Is there any such place left in the world?

In light of this.. let us give thanks to God for the greatest gift of all..

II Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

That gift that Jesus Christ gave for us. Even his life as a substitute for our sins. He died so we might have life.

He told us to give thanks and remember this great gift through the ordinance of communion. This then we will do in remembrance of Him..

As our custom each year that we have a communion service the Eve of Thanksgiving.

Jesus said,

Luke 22:19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake [it], and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: **this do in remembrance of me.**

So tonight in obedience to this command this the Eve of Thanksgiving we are going to gather together in his name and give thanks for his body that was broken for us.. And his blood that was shed for our sins.

COMMUNION SERVICE

Offering..

Communion Song..

Dismissal..