

REMEMBERING our roots

"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together, after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

*Edward Winslow (1595-1655)
Mayflower Pilgrim*

RECALLING more recent voices

"The gracious stirrings of grateful affection to God, for kindness received, always are from a stock of love already in the heart, established in the first place on other grounds . . . God's own excellency."

*Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)
Revivalist preacher, philosopher*

"The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but the thankful heart will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings."

*Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887)
Minister, Abolitionist*

"A little happening has helped me to be properly thankful even tho at times the seasoning of my blessings has not been just such as I would have chosen."

*Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867-1957)
Pioneer, Novelist*

REVERING scripture

I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need.

Philippians 4:12

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

RESOLVE to...

- give thanks in all circumstances, no matter the season of your blessings.
 - cherish a national day of Thanksgiving.
 - share abundance and mercy.
 - invite others to be partakers of your plenty.
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