

Saint Thomas and Saint Thomas of the Air Church
Thanksgiving Day
November 27, 2025
rmcneely+

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices

It has become traditional here at St Thomas for the Thanksgiving Day Sermon;

To tell the story of the sufferings of the Pilgrims;
From England to Holland back to England
To South Hampton
And the Atlantic crossing that took half their lives
Their sister ship, the *Stillwell* foundered and escaped
Back to South Hampton

The bitter winter that captured them 600 miles north
of their intended destination.
The starvation, disease and suffering
Despite all that hardship and deprivation, in the following year
sometime in mid November, 1621
the knelt and prayed God in Thanksgiving.

Or to recite the proclamation of our first President, George Washington
For prayers of thanksgiving to God for a new Nation
Following eight years of the deadly Revolutionary War.

Or to recite the proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln
For a National Day of thanksgiving
In the midst of the massive losses of the Civil War.

The lessons were stark and clear:
Our history is replete with prayer
Arising out of suffering.
Americans who, in the ravages of their suffering,
Nevertheless
Stopped and fell to their knees
Recognized the blessings of their lives
Recognized from whence they came
And gave thanks to God.

They are powerful examples from our history telling us
That in the midst of death and suffering
Maybe especially in the midst of death and suffering
We turn to our God in Thanksgiving.

However, today I want to take a different tack.
Without context.
Without a story.

But with sincere heart and praise;
And with our history in mind,

Let this sermon stand for a prayer of our own.
A simple prayer,
A prayer of Thanksgiving:

We thank Thee, O Lord
For the gift of Life
For the breath that sustains us
For the food that nourishes us

We thank thee for family
For friends
For the deep relationships that enrich our lives

We thank Thee for creation
The beauty that we can behold
For the mystery we cannot fully grasp
For filling us with wonder
And drawing us beyond ourselves
Where we can connect
Where we can commune with Thee;
The Almighty God

We thank Thee for today
This moment
For the chance to accept Thy Grace
And to believe Thy Word
To live in Thy salvation
And to lift voices in praise to Thee

For this and more.

Lord, we thank Thee.

Amen