

Thankful for You!

In case you missed it this week is Thanksgiving! All too often we forget the real meaning and purpose behind why we have holidays. In all the rush of getting turkeys and desserts ready and of course watching football please remember why we have this holiday.

Thanksgiving celebration harkens back to the early days of our country when the Plymouth colonists held a harvest feast with Indians to give thanks for God's provision and blessings in the new land. Carving out a new colony was not easy and many of the original colonists died. Yet they paused to give thanks for all the blessings they had. It began a tradition that was celebrated in various fashions and forms for the next two hundred years.

It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November. It's interesting that the first thanksgiving meal was set during a time of intense struggle and the day became a national holiday during one of our greatest struggles.

There is a lesson there for us. Our national heritage is that even in the midst of difficulties we can stop and give thanks for the blessings we do have. In a day when too many complain about what they don't have it is good to realize that those who started this day of celebration lived through much more difficult times. Amidst the conflicts they still found time to give thanks.

As we pause to take up this offering let your gift be given as a gift of thanksgiving for all God's blessings in your life. You may have struggles, trails and hardships but being thankful is the best way to navigate through those times of difficulty. So this week take a pause from stuffing yourself with food and football and give thanks to God for His blessings in your life. Pause and find things to be thankful for and express that thanks not simply to God but to others.

Before we pray for the offering let me say a word thanks to all who generously give here. Without you we could not accomplish all that we do. Thank you for your generosity!