

National Day of Fasting, Repentance, & Prayer



November 21, 2019

Please join Concerned Women for America of Maine on the third Thursday of November as we ask the nation to unite to proclaim a National Day of Fasting, Repentance, and Prayer.

One week before we feast, let us fast and humble ourselves to prepare our hearts.

Before we get caught up in the season of busyness, let us be grateful and prepare for Advent.

Elections are over; let us turn partisan prayers into prayers of personal repentance.

When we ask for God's mercy for our country, let us ask His forgiveness for our sins as individuals. It is time to stop pointing fingers and start bending our knees.

We invite our leaders from the U.S. President to pastors, from Congress to City Council members, whether public, private, or parent, to proclaim a National Day of Fasting, Repentance, and Prayer following in the steps of Presidents throughout our nation's history.

This year, in honor of the 156th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation 97 - Appointing a Day of National Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer - we ask our elected leaders to observe and reaffirm our 16th President's heartfelt plea to the supreme authority and just governance of Almighty God.

Mark your calendar and join us whether in your car, home, classroom, or office as we repent and seek God on behalf of our nation.

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” II Chronicles 7:14



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

XVI President of the United States: 1861-1865

Proclamation 97 - Appointing a Day of National Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer

March 30, 1863

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Whereas the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the supreme authority and just government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and of nations, has by a resolution requested the President to designate and set apart a day for national prayer and humiliation; and

Whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord;

And, insomuch as we know that by His divine law nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do by this my proclamation designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer. And I do hereby request all the people to abstain on that day from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite at their several places of public worship and their respective homes in keeping the day holy to the Lord and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the divine teachings that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high and answered with blessings no less than the pardon of our national sins and the restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace. In witness 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 30th day of March, A. D. 1863, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*