

A TIME TO GIVE THANKS

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member and meditate upon the goodness of the Lord. Then, let us praise Him with our lips and magnify His name, from whose bounty all this goodness flows. Let us glorify God by yielding our gifts to Him.

**Charles Haddon Spurgeon was a celebrated English Victorian preacher. Before his twentieth birthday (1853), he became Baptist pastor at New Park Street Chapel, Southwark (London).*

CORPORATE THANKSGIVING

PAUL CEDAR

Corporate prayer completes private prayer in the joy of togetherness. Because blessings spring from our common life, like flowers and fruit from the earth, corporate praise is as inevitable in normal life as individual praise. True thanks-giving is like that of Handel's oratorio, *The Messiah*. There are solos of praise and choruses of praise.

Together we celebrate the bounty of the world, for together we are blessed, and the blessing comes through common toil.

Together we celebrate the beauty of the earth, for the sense of beauty also is quickened by community, through musician, artist, sculptor and poet. Recently we saw a patch of woodland where the owner had planted 100,000 jonquil bulbs. He wrought a loveliness, but he was only an under gardener: he could not make the bulbs; he could only receive them from the One who said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so" (Genesis 1:11).

Together we celebrate the faithfulness of God and of human toil. There are many lazy folk, but many more who are industrious. The trains run, the mail is delivered, the books are printed, and a million amenities of daily life fail not, because our days are girded by obscure work well done. Together we celebrate the fellowship of faith, family, toil, play, education, and friendship by which our separate lives are nourished, adoring One whose will and wisdom sustains them all in love. Together we celebrate the insight and heroism whereby our liberties are dearly bought. Because each of us is daily enriched, each should pray "in secret." Because all are enriched, and each through all, we should also pray in corporate praise and thanksgiving.

—Edited and adapted from *Prayer*, George Arthur Buttrick, Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, © 1942 by Whitmore & Stone.



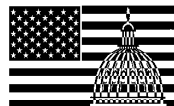
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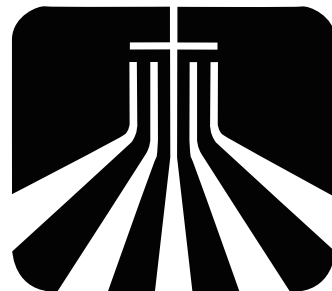
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CHURCH PRAY!

INTERCESSORS FOR AMERICA

A TIME TO GIVE THANKS

By Charles Spurgeon* 1834 - 1892

God blesses us richly every hour of every day. When we sleep and when we wake, His mercy waits upon us. The sun may leave us a legacy of darkness, but God never ceases to shine upon His children with beams of love.

Like a river, His loving kindness always flows with a fullness that is as inexhaustible as His own nature. Like the atmosphere which surrounds the earth and supports the life of man, the benevolence of God surrounds all His creatures.

Rivers are swollen at certain seasons by the rain, and the atmosphere itself is sometimes filled with more fresh, more bracing, or more balmy influences than usual.

It is the same with the mercy of God. It has its golden hours and its days of overflowing joy, when the Lord magnifies His grace before the sons of men. The joyous days of harvest are a special season of favor.

The glory of autumn is in the ripe gifts of providence that are abundantly bestowed. It is the mellow season of realization where all before was mere hope and expectation. Great is the joy of the harvest. Happy are the reapers who fill their arms with the liberality of heaven.

The psalmist tells us that the harvest is the crowning of the year. Surely these crowning mercies call for crowning thanksgiving!

Let us offer thanks by the inward emotions of gratitude. Let our hearts be warmed, and let our spirits re-
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“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

—Colossians 4:2

NOVEMBER 2010 PRAYER FOCUS

Sunday, November 7, 2010

VETERANS / TROOPS – This coming Thursday is Veteran's Day in the U.S. Offer thanksgiving for those who have given their lives so that we might enjoy freedom today. Pray for U.S. and coalition troops engaged in the war on terrorism, especially remembering those serving in Afghanistan and Iraq today.

Sunday, November 14, 2010

SUPREMACY OF CHRIST – Reflect upon Ephesians 1:15-23 and Colossians 1:9-18. Pray that the Lord grant you, your family members, your pastors, area church leaders, and city, state, and national officials a "spirit of wisdom and revelation" in the knowledge of the fullness of Christ—of His "preeminence in all things."

Sunday, November 21, 2010

CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS – Pray that our nation's foundational truths, freedoms, and structure be sustained, defended, and strengthened. Pray that God will change the hearts and minds of all who would pervert and destroy our historic constitutional freedoms, or remove them from office and influence.

Sunday, November 28, 2010

GRATITUDE / THANKSGIVING – Having celebrated Thanksgiving Day this past week, take time to reflect upon and express gratitude, and thanksgiving for God's continued blessing upon America, for our constitutional freedoms, and the abundant provisions we enjoy.