



## *Thanksgivings to God*

November, 2015

Dear Prince Families:

Thanksgiving is a distinctly American holiday rooted in our Pilgrim and Puritan traditions of the 1620s-1630s as they celebrated harvests of increasing yield in conditions Americans today could hardly fathom. Thanksgiving “Holy Days” (now a single, secularized holiday) were originally religious events that occurred periodically, sometimes more than once a year, to celebrate significant achievements when Americans stopped working, turned to God in prayer and celebration, and returned thanksgiving for his blessings and grace.

Although George Washington issued a Thanksgiving proclamation in 1789 “to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor” at that time, each state chose its own date to celebrate annual Thanksgiving. It was not until 1863 when President Lincoln, amidst the heat of the Civil War and with the strategic objective of unification, proclaimed the fourth Thursday in the month of



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November a national day of “Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.” Historically, God’s blessings upon our nation have been beyond measure, as our creative spirit and infectious hope have drawn millions of people from all nations to our shores.

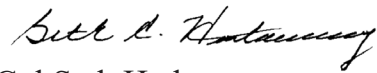
As our society has grown increasing secularized and pluralistic, fewer Americans see Thanksgiving as a holy day nor recognize its correlation with

our Christian faith. As our nation's focus on God's prominence has lessened, feasting, family, and our nation's insatiable appetite for entertainment have become predominate themes. This culture shift presents a superb opportunity for us as believers to share our thanksgivings with family and friends for God's blessings and grace for the privilege of being Americans and living a life filled with so many comforts and blessings.

As you prepare to share in this year's Thanksgiving meal, I encourage you to pause and ask each member of your family to briefly share one bless-

ing from this past year and conclude with prayer to God asking for His continued blessing upon our churches, families, and school and with thanksgiving for His greatest gift, His only Son, Jesus Christ. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" - 2 Corinthians 9:15. Enjoy your families during this special time!

Warm regards and in His service,



Col Seth Hathaway

Head of School