**Blessing Every Day**

**A Blessing for Thanksgiving**

A project from the Mission Theology Advisory Group



The Mission Theology Advisory Group is an ecumenical group formed in partnership between Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and the Church of England We provide resources in the areas of Spirituality, Theology, Reconciliation, Evangelism and Mission.

This resource belongs to our Spirituality series. Please print and share.

More information from [www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/deeper-god-mission-theology](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/deeper-god-mission-theology)

 <https://ctbi.org.uk/mission-theology-advisory-group-resources/>

*martha\_chapa95/flickr Thanksgiving Parade*

Thanksgiving is celebrated on the last Thursday in November every year. It is an important occasion in the United States especially, and a time when families make an effort to get together. The day is celebrated with excitement, colour, and joyful parades. In many people’s minds it is a more important time to get together and share gifts with family than Christmas.

Originally Thanksgiving was a harvest festival, - a time to thank God for bringing in the food to get through the winter and for abundant supply. It is still traditional in the US to eat turkey as a sign of that fruitful bounty. And many families like to reflect on what they are thankful for and share that with their loved ones.

However, Thanksgiving is now a much more secular occasion within the ‘holiday season’ and associated with the start of shopping bonanza that characterises November and December in the western world.

Now we live in a global community, many of us have North American friends and relatives and like to share in their special day. Thanksgiving as a secular festival is also spreading to other countries. So it might be good to offer our friends something of the Christian spirit of thankfulness.

In offering a prayer and asking God’s blessing we can also remind ourselves that we should always thank God for all we have, especially when so many are in need and are excluded from the joy of having enough.

# A Prayer and Blessing for Thanksgiving

Lord Jesus,

When you sat at supper with your disciples,

You took the bread, said the blessing over it,

And you gave thanks. You shared

All you had with those you loved (and love).

Bless all who celebrate Thanksgiving

With their families and loved ones,

And all those in our hearts and minds today.

May we be forever thankful for all we enjoy,

Knowing that all good things come from you.

*Amen*