



THANKSGIVING DEVOTIONAL - SPIRITUAL UNITY FEAST

**"GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR SHARED FOOD HARVESTS, NATURE'S
COMMONWEALTH AND BELOVED COMMUNITY"**

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Hosted by the Baha'i Faith Community - Bethesda/Montgomery County, Maryland

"E PLURIBUS UNUM - OUT OF MANY, ONE"



***"IN THIS DAY, TO THANK GOD FOR HIS BOUNTIES CONSISTETH IN POSSESSING
A RADIANT HEART, AND A SOUL OPEN TO THE PROMPTINGS OF THE SPIRIT.
THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF THANKSGIVING..."***

ABDU'L-BAHA - BAHAI' FAITH WRITINGS



"SHARED FOOD HARVESTS, NATURE'S COMMONWEALTH AND BELOVED COMMUNITY"

I. Welcome and Thanksgiving Program Introduction: "Giving Thanks for Shared Food Harvest, Nature's Commonwealth and Beloved Community"

Chairman, Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i's of Montgomery County South, MD

II. Thanksgiving: Spiritual Harvests, Shared Commonwealth and Beloved Community: The Spiritual Destiny of America

Dr. Reba Carruth
Program Chair and Moderator

"The necessity and the particularity of the assured and believing ones is to be firm in the Cause of God and withstand the hidden and evident tests. Thanks be to God that you are distinguished and made eminent by this blessing. Anybody can be happy in the state of comfort, ease, health, success, pleasure and joy; but if one will be happy and contented in the time of trouble, hardship and prevailing disease, it is the proof of nobility."

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Bahá'í World Faith

Spiritual Destiny of America Prayer

Musical Selections

III. Thanking God for Creation of Nature, Shared Commonwealth and Beloved Community: Biblical and Indigenous Faith Scriptures for Community Service and Civic Responsibility

Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin Reisner - Chair of Waterkeepers Chesapeake, President of the Baltimore Board of Rabbis and Chair of the Jewish Community's Baltimore Environmental Sustainability Network

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"

Psalm 100:4 (Hebrew Bible)

Gary Gillespie - Quaker Faith, Homewood Friends Community -Former Executive Director/Current Board Member and Treasurer of Central Maryland Ecumenical Council (CMEC)

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples."

Chronicles 16:8 (Christian Bible)

Kate Fritz, Chief Executive Officer(CEO) - Alliance for Chesapeake Bay
Civic Engagement and Local Community Service for Sustainable Nature/Shared Commonwealth in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region

"Today we have gathered and we see that the cycles of life continue. We have been given the duty and responsibility to live in balance and harmony with each other and all living things. So now, we bring our minds together as one as we give our greetings and our thanks to one another as people."

Thanksgiving Address Greetings to Natural World: Central Prayer and Invocation for the Haudenosaunee - the Iroquois Confederacy or Six Nations — Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca, and Tuscarora.



"SHARED FOOD HARVESTS, NATURE'S COMMONWEALTH AND BELOVED COMMUNITY"

IV. Historical Proclamation of Thanksgiving, Natures' Commonwealth and the Spiritual Destiny of America

For His Power and Strength

"He caused the storm to be still, So that the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they were quiet; So He guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men! Let them extol Him also in the congregation of the people, And praise Him at the seat of the elders."

(Psalm 107:29-32)

Jewish Bible/Old Testament - Christian Bible)

V. Thanksgiving Proclamations

President George Washington

President Abraham Lincoln

Native American Indian Proclamation

VI. Thanksgiving Community Service and Civic Responsibility

"But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of a beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. It is this kind of understanding and goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles."

Dr. Martin Luther King

Manna Food Bank - Montgomery County, Maryland

Feeding America - Area Capitol Food Bank (Maryland/DC/Virginia - the American Nation)

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay - Call for Local Community Service Volunteers and Civic

Engagement: Native Tree Planting/Forest Conservation/ Clean Water Restoration

Musical Selection

"Harvest for the World" - Isley Brothers and Kingdom Choir

VII. Program Closing: Selected Prayers and Readings for Thanksgiving, Unity and Beloved Community

Mr. Colby Gottert

Mrs. Martha Absher, Esq.

Mr. Noah Bartolucci

Thank you to all the Speakers

Special thanks to Mr. Colby Gottert and Ms. Carolina Torres for Program Production

"So Powerful is the Light of Unity that it can illuminate the Whole Earth."

Baha'u'llah (Glory of God) - Baha'i Faith Writings