



**CITIZENS**

**OF**

**HEAVEN**

Commonwealth of



Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**JOHN A. ANDREW,**

GOVERNOR:

# A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, The President of the United States of America did by his Proclamation, Dated at Washington on the 26th day of March, last, designate and set apart THURSDAY, the thirtieth day of April, 1863, as a day of National Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer; requesting the solemn and religious observance of that day on the part of all the people of the United States, by abstaining from secular pursuits and by acts of devotion and of public worship:

I do, therefore direct and request that this Proclamation of the Chief Executive Magistrate of the Nation be published and promulgated to the people of Massachusetts in the same manner in which the Proclamation of the Governor of Massachusetts is accustomed to be promulgated, ordering the annual Fast observed in this Commonwealth. And I especially invoke the attention of all ministers of the Gospel, as well as of all the good people of Massachusetts, in order that the day thus devoted as a National Sabbath to the special services and duties of penitence, prayer and the worship of God, may be duly observed throughout our Commonwealth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR:

OLIVER WARNER, *Secretary.*

JOHN A. ANDREW.

God save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN,**

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

# A PROCLAMATION

## For a Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer.

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 almighty power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, and with earnest hope that penitent repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the solemn truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord:

And, inasmuch as we know that, by His living law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to just 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 neglect and of our national infidelity as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest mercies 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 judgment.

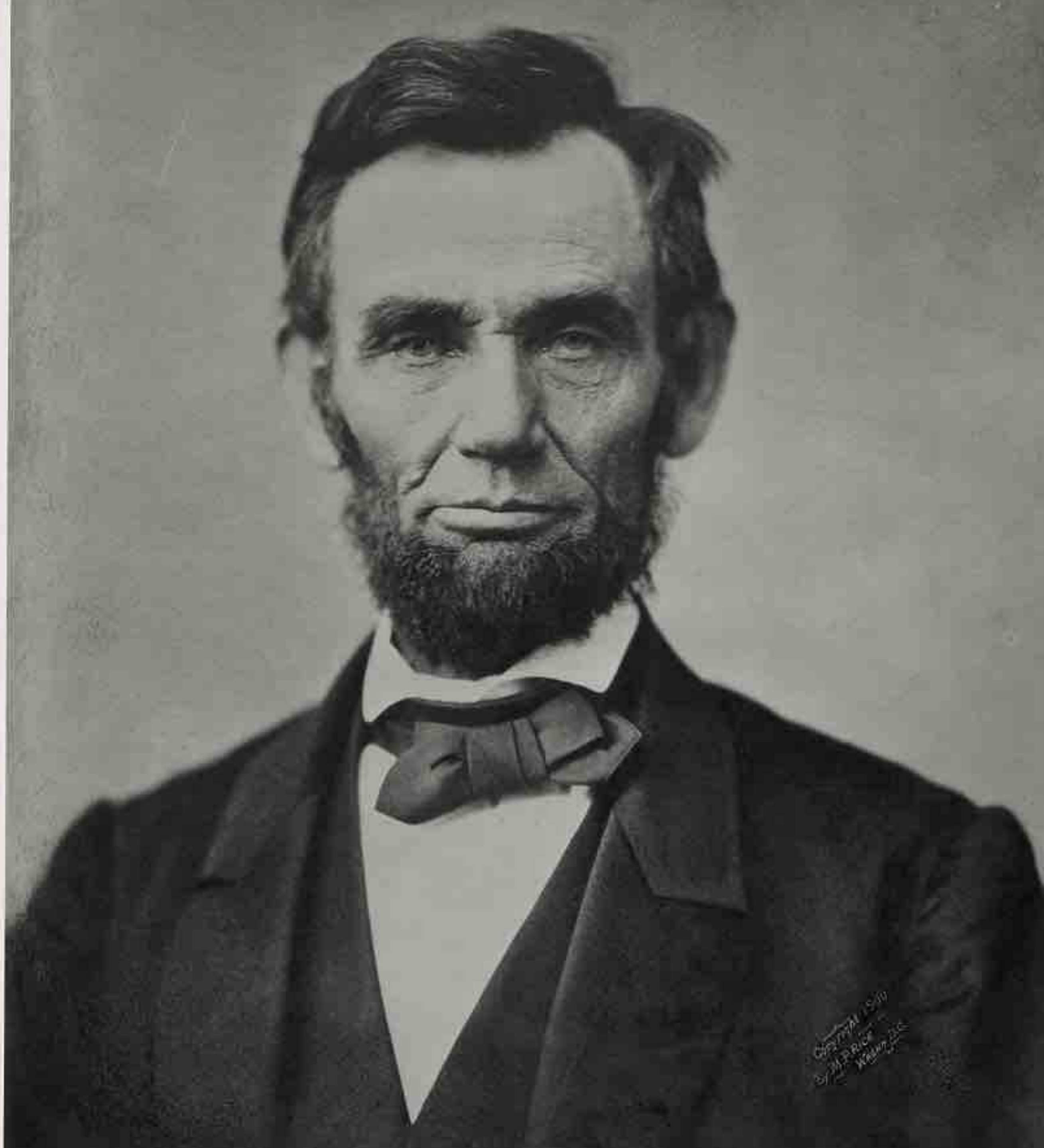
Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart THURSDAY, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of National Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain on that 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 hopefully 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 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 thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord, our thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.



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<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**1 Timothy 2:1-4 ESV**



# Prayer for the Nation

- I. Pray for those in authority



<sup>14</sup> if my people who are called by my name **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.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 ESV**



# Restoration of a Nation

**Humility**  
**Prayer**  
**Repentance**



**Hear**  
**Forgive**  
**Heal**



# I. Pray for those in authority

a. That leaders govern with peace and justice.





<sup>1</sup>The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord;  
he turns it wherever he will.

**Proverbs 21:1 ESV**



*I sometimes wonder whether the comparatively slow progress towards peace and justice in the world, and towards world evangelization, is due more than anything else to the prayerlessness of the people of God.*

**John Stott**



# I. Pray for those in authority

- a. That leaders govern with peace and justice.
- b. For the salvation of our leaders



<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

**Psalm 33:12 ESV**



# Prayer for the Nation

- I. Pray for those in authority
- II. Remember our heavenly citizenship



<sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**1 Timothy 2:3-4 ESV**



# II. Remember our heavenly citizenship

- a. Our primary allegiance is to Christ's Kingdom.



<sup>20</sup> But **our citizenship is in heaven**, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 3:20** ESV





## II. Remember our heavenly citizenship

- a. Our primary allegiance is to Christ's Kingdom.
- b. Our hope is in God's sovereignty, not politics.



<sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons;  
he removes kings and sets up kings;  
he gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to those who have understanding.

**Daniel 2:21** ESV



<sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**Psalm 146:3 esv**



# Prayer Points

## **Government Leaders**

Govern with righteousness & integrity

Hearts open to salvation

Alignment with God's will

## **Our Nation**

Repentance of sin

Unity & healing across divisions

God's values shape national policies

## **Our Heavenly Focus**

Anchoring our hope in Christ

Courage to live out Kingdom values

Trust in God's sovereignty





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