

As we gather together this Thanksgiving Day, we offer thanks for our lives and our loved ones; for the blessing of community and the laughter of children; for nourishment and sustenance; for the roof over our heads and the clothes on our backs. We are grateful for our health and wealth of blessings, even as we work to ease the burden of those who go without. Surrounded by loved ones and friends, as we express our gratitude, we give thanks for the freedom of this country to pray these words without fear, in any language, by any faith, and honor the legacy of our country and our tradition to uphold the values of democracy, of justice and of peace.

In this season of gratitude, we commit ourselves to seek to fulfill the best of the potential within us as a people and a nation. May we strive, through both our deeds and our words, for greater love and thankfulness within our families, our communities, our nation and the world. May we never be too busy to say "thank you" to each other and to God for all our blessings. May we remember to not just utter words of appreciation, but to live by them.

Blessed are You, O God, the Source of all our gifts and more.

*composed and compiled by Rabbi Shana Goldstein Mackler. Sources and influences include A Thanksgiving Blessing by Rabbi Naomi Levy, President Kennedy's *Thanksgiving Day Proclamation, 1963*