

God's Providence at Plymouth

Many Americans know well the story of the first Thanksgiving after the Pilgrims arrived from England, but why they were able to survive in the New World is less well known. "When the Pilgrims landed in 1620 at Plymouth Rock, they escaped from a treacherous ride on the wild seas only to step into another harrowing experience on the wild land . . .

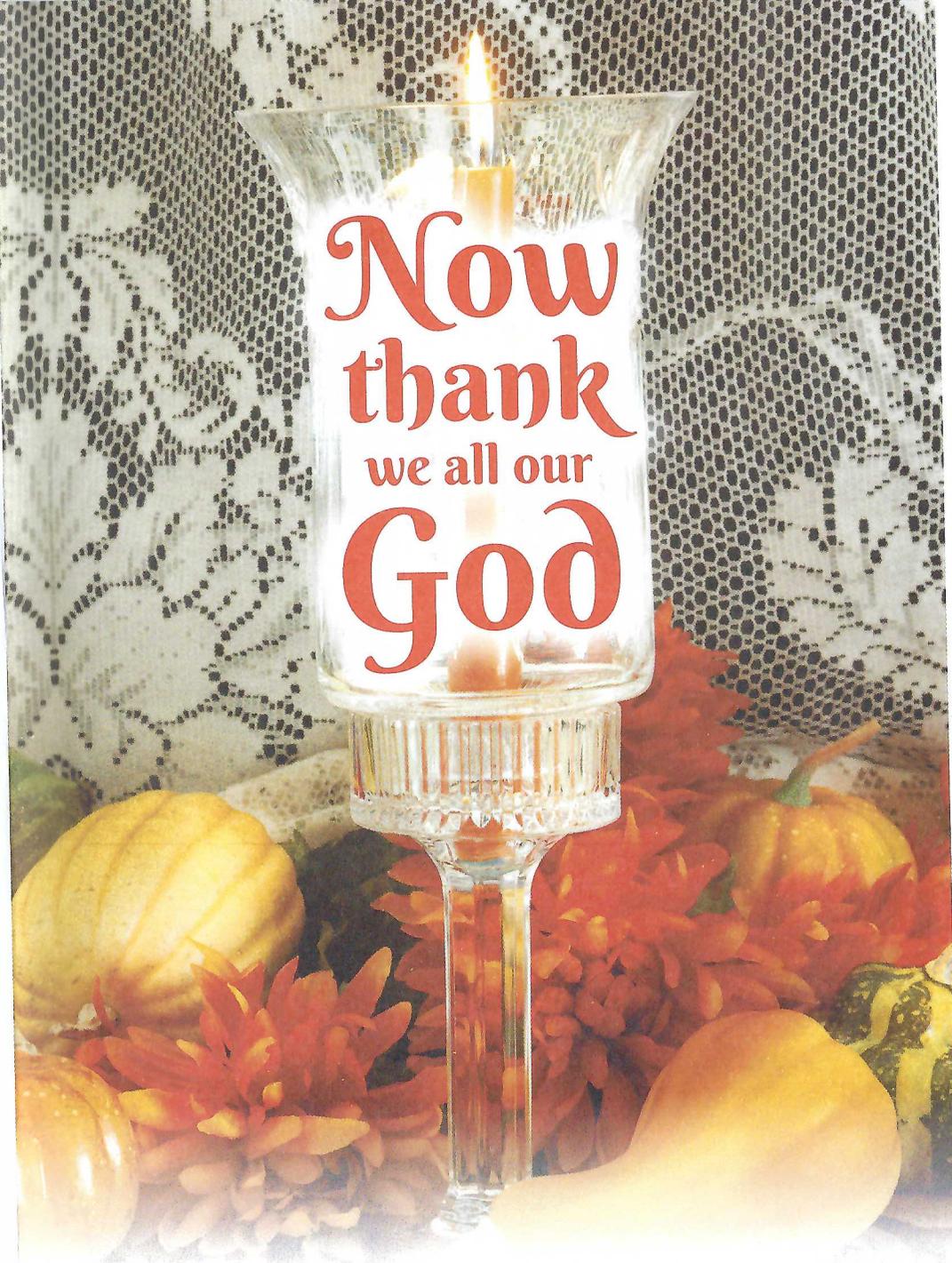
"It was not the first permanent English settlement in North America. This honor went to Jamestown, which lay several hundred miles down the Atlantic coast. Jamestown had suffered one catastrophe after another . . . The Plymouth settlers, like those at Jamestown, also faced great hardship—severe winters, disease, hunger. Three months after the landing, half were dead and most of the others sick.

"But there was a different spirit among these of the Plymouth Colony . . . the extent of their spiritual commitment, an unselfish spirit, discipline, and wise leadership. William Bradford governed . . . a man of magnanimous spirit, resolute but patient, a man of great spiritual depth." His *History of the Plymouth Plantation* tells us about the Pilgrims' lives. He "writes of how the pilgrims rested on God's providence time and time again." He "describes a three-month drought. The corn withered, the ground cracked. The settlers set aside 'a solemn day of humiliation, to seek the Lord by humble & fervente prayer, in this great distrese.' The Lord answered . . . 'and afterwards the Lord sent them shuch seasonable showers, with enterchange of faire warme weather, as, through his blessing, caused a fruitfull & liberall harvest, to their no small comforte and rejoycing. For which mercie (in time conveniente) they also sett aparte a day of thanksgiveing . . .'

"William Bradford's Plymouth account reveals time and time again that, despite great hardships, the pilgrims also saw great blessings, and they were a thankful people. In the concluding pages of the drama, Bradford makes the point well: 'God, it seems, would have all men to behold and observe such mercies and works of his providence as these are towards his people, that they in like cases might be incouraged to depend upon God in their trials.'"

Quotes from Men Who Shaped America
by Robert Flood

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Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

November 24, 2024

Call to Worship

Invocation

Pastor Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn # 786 Count Your Blessings

Welcome and Announcements

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn #790 We Gather Together

Offertory Prayer

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sermon: "3 Reasons for Thanksgiving"

Pastor Don Mauldin

Scripture: I Chronicles 16: 8-12

Hymn of Benediction

Hymn # 170 Give Thanks

Pastor Don Mauldin

352-262-5349

Happy Thanksgiving!

Covenant News

Our ministry for November is the Southwest Advocacy Group (SWAG). SWAG's goal is to improve the well-being of residents in SW Gainesville. They provide support and resources for a self-reliant, and successful life.

Thanksgiving Dinner November tonight at 5:00.

We provide the turkey and dressing,
you bring your favorite sides.

Holiday Social December 8th after church
"The Colors of Christmas" Musical December 15th
Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

In Everything Give Thanks

For all that God in mercy sends -
For health and children, home and friends;
For comfort in time of need,
For every kindly word and deed,
For happy talks and holy thoughts;
For guidance in our daily walk -
In everything give thanks!

For the sweet sleep which comes with night,
For the returning morning's light,
For the bright sun that shines on high,
For the stars glittering in the sky -
For these and everything we see,
O Lord our hearts we lift to thee;
In everything give thanks!