

THANKSGIVING

1906

Thanksgiving Souvenir



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,
Lexington, Virginia.**

1906

WLU 6110294 - 601.8002-003

Thanksgiving Souvenir

NOVEMBER TWENTY-NINTH, MCMVI

First Baptist Church,
Lexington, - Va.

Rev. W. J. Lucas, Pastor.

PROGRAM.

1. Music.....*Sanctum, sanctum, sanctum.*
2. Invocation.
3. Music.....*Deus noster refugium.*
4. Scripture Lesson, Psalm XCII.....*Bonum confiteri est.*
5. Prayer.
6. Music.....*Laudamus te, O Domine.*
7. Reading Thanksgiving Proclamation.....Miss Lillian Greenlee.
8. Music.....*Beatus populi sunt.*
9. Sermon....."The American Citizen and his Goodly Heritage."
10. Prayer.
11. Music.....Collection.
12. Benediction.

CHOIR MEMBERS.

Mr. J. D. Lewis,	Miss Ollie Gooch.
Mr. Stewart Mack,	Miss Martha Carpenter,
Mr. Perry Robinson,	Miss Kissie E. Pryor,
Mr. James Gooch,	Miss Ecelean Gilliam,
Mrs. Nellie Lewis,	Miss Ruth E. Gilliam,
Miss Emily J. Holloway,	Miss Rosa Tinsley.
Miss Amanda J. James, Organist and Music Director.	

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

The time of the year has come, when, in accordance with the custom of our forefathers, it becomes my duty to set aside a special day of thanksgiving and praise to the Almighty because of the blessings we have received, and of prayer that these blessings may be continued. Yet another year of wide-spread well-being has passed. Never before in our history or in the history of any other nation has a people enjoyed more abounding material prosperity than ours, a prosperity so great that it should arouse in us no spirit of reckless pride, and the least of a spirit of disregard of our responsibilities; but all rather a sober, resolute purpose, under Providence, not to forfeit them by any action of our own. Material well being, indispensable tho it is, can never be anything but the foundation of true national greatness and happiness. If we build nothing upon this foundation, then our national life will be as meaningless and empty as a house where only the foundation has been laid. Upon our material well being must be built a superstructure of individual and national life lived in accordance with the laws of the highest morality, or else our prosperity itself will in the long run turn out a curse instead of a blessing.

We should be both reverently thankful for what we have received, and earnestly bent on turning it into a means of grace and not of destruction. Accordingly I hereby set apart Thursday, the twenty-ninth of November, next, as a day of thanksgiving and supplication, on which the people shall meet in their homes or churches, devoutly acknowledge all that has been given them, and pray that they may in addition receive the power to use these gifts aright.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this twenty-second day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and six, and of the independence of the United States, the one hundred and thirty-first.

(Signed) THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

(Seal) By the President.

ELIHU ROOT, Secretary of State.

“THE AMERICAN CITIZEN AND HIS GOODLY HERITAGE.”

“The lines fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.” Psalm 16:6.

It is not necessary on the present occasion to dwell on the original design of the sentiment which I have chosen for the text. It evidently has reference to the division of the promised land among the children of Israel. The Psalmist is considering the happy condition of this people, that had been brought as “a vine out of Egypt” and planted in the fertile soil of Canaan, and his words were spoken in one of the periods of their greatest prosperity.

These words are peculiarly applicable to our own nation. They are well suited to the condition of the nation in its entirety; but as I have said before, since I am an apostle to the Negro race, I shall address myself to that people in particular.

Regardless of the numerous infringements upon our rights, we are, nevertheless, American citizens, and as such, there are duties belonging to us as well as privileges desired by us. Hence, let us notice,

1. What are Some of the Duties Devolving Upon an American Citizen?

It is the duty of an American citizen—

1. TO REVERENCE THE LAWS OF THE LAND—Laws are necessary to promote the well being of the governed. Christianity does not destroy patriotism, but it develops and sanctifies it. Therefore it is our duty to reverence the law, although very often in the administering of it “judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off; truth is fallen in the street and equity cannot enter.”

2. TO TREAT WITH RESPECT THOSE WHO ARE IN OFFICE—It is written, “Thou shalt not speak evil of the rulers of thy people.” Christians should discountenance this by word and example. “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers,” remembering that “the powers that be are ordained of God.”

3. TO AID IN THE GENERAL DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE—A republic cannot exist where the people are ignorant. The ignorant cannot understand their duties and their rights as American citizens. General diffusion of knowledge will destroy anarchy, brawls and riots.

4. TO ELEVATE THE MORAL CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE—The heart as well as the head needs cultivation. The holders of the destinies of a nation like this should be moral as well as enlightened. “Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”

II. Our Goodly Heritage.

"Yea, I have a goodly heritage." We may with great propriety adopt these words, because of—

1. OUR COUNTRY—Our lots have been cast in the most favorable land, all things being considered, on earth. We have within our domains, the finest scenery, the most fertile soil, the most diversified and salubrious climate that God has vouchsafed to man; yea, such a heritage as the sun nowhere else shines upon.

2. OUR GOVERNMENT—It is corrupt, sometimes, in its administration, but in theory it is just and right, because it is founded on the principles of liberty and equality, and guarantees the rights of all. Such is the principle, although be it well known that in many instances and many districts, so far as the Negro is concerned, the thundering voice of the Goddess of Liberty fell sick in the evening of the nineteenth and died before the dawn of the twentieth century, and now lies silent, buried in the graveyard of prejudice.

3. OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS—They are, to an extent, the glory of our land—our public schools, our select schools, academies, seminaries, colleges and universities for the intellectual training and elevation of the coming generation; and their like can be found in no land unilluminated by the light reflected from the cross of Christ in the blessed Gospel.

4. OUR SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS—The family circle, the tender father, the loving mother, the happy children, all dwelling together in peace and unity, purity and plenty, is a picture utterly unknown in heathen climes. There the dwelling of the poorer class especially, is a tent or hovel. The father is a tyrant, the mother a slave or "beast of burden," and the children are regarded as incumbrances instead of blessings.

5. OUR CHURCHES—These are the centers of our social as well as our religious life. The blessings they are to us may better be appreciated by imagining them all dissolved and the beautiful edifices they have erected turned into temples for the worship of idols, with all the revolting and demoralizing rites and ceremonies that usually accompany such worship.

In conclusion, our reasons for thankfulness are not wholly connected with the present, but they reach far into the future. Certainly, a "goodly heritage have we," but it doth not yet appear what we shall have, for as it is written, "Eye hath not seen, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Amen.