



STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

From time immemorial, prayer has been a pillar of public and private life in Texas and in America. During times of distress and during seasons of celebration, our people have turned to the Almighty in prayer, whether it be in praise, thanksgiving, repentance, or supplication. Furthermore, prayer—and the personal faith upon which it is predicated—is inexorably woven into American thought. To this end, both Founding Fathers and contemporary leaders have, for generations, called upon the American people to join them in prayer.

Prayer has long guided the intertwining stories of the Lone Star State and the United States, and the rich heritage of prayerfulness inherited from our forefathers has endured to this day. The Texas Constitution begins by "humbly invoking the blessings of Almighty God," and the Declaration of Independence concludes with an appeal "to the Supreme Judge of the world." Ours is a nation built by men and women of profound faith, and consequently, our leaders have always recognized the importance of prayer.

As it says in the 1863 national day of prayer proclamation by Abraham Lincoln, the holy Scriptures have declared—and history has proven—that blessed are the nations whose God is the Lord. At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the great men who built this nation turned to God in prayer for wisdom and guidance, and they knew that without the hand of Providence, they would fare "no better than the builders of Babel." In subsequent generations, the American people were preserved in peace and prosperity. At the height of the Civil War, though, President Lincoln called the American people to repentance, asserting that "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."

In more recent years, this longstanding tradition of prayerfulness was codified into public law. In 1952, President Truman signed a joint resolution establishing a day of prayer, and in so doing, he ushered in a new era of nationwide prayer. Decades later, President Reagan declared the first Thursday in May to be a National Day of Prayer and encouraged all Americans "to gather together...in homes and places of worship to pray, each after his or her own manner, for unity in the hearts of all mankind."

We know that "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much," and I therefore implore the people of Texas to turn to God in prayer—for wisdom, strength, mercy, and guidance. Faith made the Lone Star bright in the American firmament, and it will no doubt lead us to an even better future.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to acknowledge God's glory, to find fortitude in His promises, and to offer humble thanksgiving for the many blessings He has bestowed upon our communities, our state, and our nation.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 4, 2023, to be

## A Day of Prayer



in Texas and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this the  
15th day of March, 2023.

  
Governor of Texas

Mr. Jim McGee  
NDP Austin  
P.O. Box 170388  
Austin, Texas 78717