



THE CROSS and CROWN

“No Cross, No Crown”

a publication of Highway Mission Tabernacle and Resurrection Life Church, Philadelphia, PA

Edition XCIII | December 1, 2024 copyright ©2024, Highway Mission Tabernacle

In October of 1863, in the middle of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation (written by his Secretary of State, William Seward) which is now acknowledged to be what made Thanksgiving an annual observance. The proclamation, rife with references to the war, begins by making note of “bounties which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come” and ends with a recommendation that, in “humble penitence,” his fellow citizens “ferverently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes.” How appropriate these words are for our nation once again, 161 years later.

When I spoke at the annual church-academy Thanksgiving dinner, I noted that Thanksgiving is treated like a speed bump on the way to Christmas. I’m sure that you, like me, began seeing Christmas decorations and hearing Christmas music well before Thanksgiving Day. Even Black Friday sales – sales specifically tied to the day after Thanksgiving – have crept to the earlier side of holiday.

The same spirit of taking things for granted that Seward lamented in the opening sentences of the proclamation is easy for us to see in our day as well. Giving thanks is no longer the focus of Thanksgiving, perhaps because we have lost that humility borne of desperation that motivated the first settlers to render thanks to the Almighty when the harvest came in.

We have almost a year until the next Thanksgiving. In that time, let’s begin developing a culture of thankfulness. Acknowledge all those everyday blessings from God that we tend to take for granted. Share your gratitude with those around you – family, friends, coworkers – and help them to develop thankful hearts as well. Set aside prayer time exclusively for praise and thanksgiving. Let’s be known as the thankful people!

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits. (Psalm 103:2)



Brothers and Sisters, Pray for Us!





We are so thankful for:

- a group of youth who love God's house,
- two baptisms and one new member this year,
- a worship arts team that's growing in the Spirit, and
- YOU – our co-laborers in this ministry!

We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

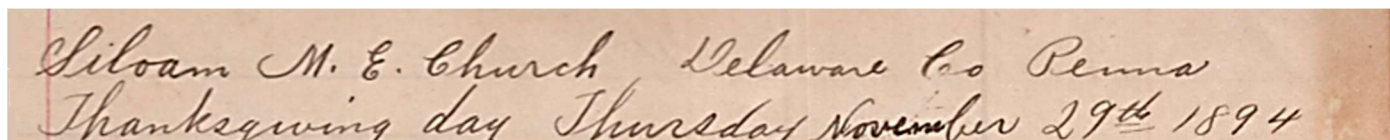
Whether it's to share a prayer need, a praise report or a word of greeting or encouragement, please keep in touch. Hearing from you encourages us more than you know.

 PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130
 17 th & Tioga Streets (3501 N 17 th Street) Philadelphia, PA 19140
 Church/Academy Office: (215) 226-1000
 CrossAndCrown@Highway.AG

* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did You Know?



Thanksgiving was celebrated on the last Thursday of November until 1939, when it would have fallen on the fifth Thursday, and President Roosevelt worried that a shortened Christmas shopping season would stifle the recovery from the Great Depression. Thirty-two states followed his Presidential Proclamation and set the fourth Thursday as Thanksgiving Day, but the remaining sixteen did not. Congress stepped in to end the confusion, formally adopting the fourth Thursday in 1941.

(Notably, the Thanksgiving Day on which Highway was born was November 29th, the fifth Thursday.)

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. (Colossians 4:2)

Highway Mission Tabernacle ♦ Resurrection Life Church ♦ PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130

Welcome@ResLife.AG ♦ Church: (215) 226-1000 ♦ Otis: (215) 266-5976

HighwayTabernacle.org ♦ ResLife.AG ♦ Sunday services at Noon: ResLife.stream

Archived Issues: <https://CrossAndCrown.online>

