

give thanks

Dear Friends,

In November we have three sacred civic holidays: Election Day, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving. We can be thankful that we live in a country where we have the sacred obligation to vote to choose our leaders and we are grateful to our veterans for their service in both times of war and peace. I hope that Thanksgiving can be a time of celebration, pause, and reflection after this recent tumultuous election campaign as we come together in our families and communities with healing and gratitude. In that spirit I would like to share with you the following prayer by my teacher and colleague, Rabbi Naomi Levy:

Prayer for the Thanksgiving Feast

For the laughter of children,
For my own life breath,
For the abundance of food on this table,
For the ones who prepared this sumptuous feast,
For the roof over our heads,
The clothes on our backs,
For our health,
And our wealth of blessings.
For this opportunity to celebrate with family and friends.
For the freedom to pray these words
Without fear,
In any language
In any faith,
In this great country,
Whose landscape is as vast and beautiful as her inhabitants.
Thank You, God, for giving us all these.
Amen.

Best wishes for a Happy and Meaningful Thanksgiving,

Rabbi Stephen Shulman
Director, Pastoral Services