

Thanksgiving 2017

The American Holiday

Across our nation, people of every background and tradition celebrate Thanksgiving as a distinctly American holiday, rooted in gratitude. In the great diversity of faith traditions, we gather at table to give thanks for our many blessings. We pause to thank our Creator and, at the same time, celebrate our freedom. Thanksgiving is not only an historical celebration, but a present reality in which even the most recent arrival in our nation rejoices.

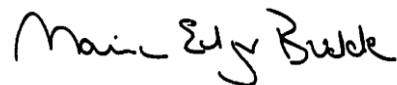
Among the blessings Americans share is the gift of freedom. We celebrate its many expressions, including the freedom to practice one's faith. Another is our freedom of speech and the liberty to express ourselves. We recognize, however, that freedom of expression carries the responsibility to do so with mutual respect and civility. As Americans, we are all free to speak what we believe to be the truth, but we are also challenged to do so in love, in the spirit of universal kinship recognizing the dignity of every person.

For both the freedom and the challenge we give thanks. And we wish a peaceful, happy Thanksgiving to all.

The Solidarity Table



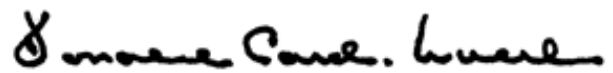
Imam Talib Shareef
Masjid Muhammad – The Nation's Mosque



Bishop Mariann Budde
Episcopal Diocese of Washington



Rabbi Bruce Lustig
Washington Hebrew Congregation



Cardinal Donald Wuerl
Archdiocese of Washington