Once again we pause, as individuals and as a nation, in gratitude, that modest and humble posture in which we are made vulnerable both to our dependence on God and to the world’s dependence on us. As we gather with family, neighbors, and friends, may we open ourselves not simply to the generosity of God, but to the needs of the world around us, and to the challenge to be responsive in ways that deliver God’s generosity to all others. For true thanksgiving must ultimately and always render us as vehicles of God’s love to the world, as doers of justice and mercy, as the arms, hands, and heart of the God from whom come every generous act of giving and every perfect gift. To be genuinely thankful for the gifts of God is to become a gift of God to others – to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, to visit the sick and imprisoned, to advocate for the disenfranchised and oppressed, to be indefatigable in the quest for peace and faithful in our stewardship of creation, and to embrace the other in order to become whole ourselves. In that grateful embrace, Thanksgiving Day and every day, do we become more godly. Know that I hold each of you in my prayers of gratitude, giving thanks to God for your ministries, witness, and companionship.

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

Bishop of Ohio