

*"Unto Thee, O God,  
do we give thanks!"*

Psalm 75:1

The Pilgrims of Plimoth



## *Ye First Thanksgiving in Ye New Worlde*

*"I may not here omite how, notwithstanding all their great paines & industrie, and ye great hopes of a large cropp, the Lord seemed to blast, & take away the same, and to threaten further & more sore famine unto them, by a great drought which continued from ye 3 weeke in May, till about ye middle of July, without any raine, and with great heat (for ye most parte), insomuch as ye corne begane to wither away, though it was set with fishe, the moysture wherof helped it much. Yet at length it begane to languish sore, and some ye drier grounds were partched like withered hay, part wherof was never recovered. Upon which they sett aparte a solemne day of humilliation, to seek ye Lord by humble & fervente prayer, in this great distrese. And He was pleased to give them a gracious and speedy answer, both to their owne, & the In-*

*deans admiration, that lived amongst them. For all ye morning, and greatest part of the day, it was cleare weather & very hotte, and not a cloud or any sign of raine to be seen, yet toward evening it began to overcast, and shortly after to raine, with shuch sweete and gentle showers, as gave them cause of rejoycing, & blessing God. It came without either wind, or thunder, or any violence, and by degreese in yt abundance, as that ye earth was thorowly wete and soked therwith. Which did so apparently revive and quicken ye decayed corne & other fruits, as was wonderfull to see, and made ye Indians astonished to behold; and afterwards The Lord sent them shuch weather as, through His blessing, caused a fruitfull rejoycing. For which mercie (in time conveniente) they also set aparte a day of Thanksgiving..."*

*William Bradford, "Of Plimoth Plantation," 1647*