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We continue steadfastly in prayer, and in the  
ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

## Harvest of Holidays

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- **Join voices as we pray:**
- I come boldly to the throne of grace, that I may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4: 16
- Elohim of my fathers, and Adhonai of mercy, who has made all things with Your Word,  
Wisdom 9: 1
- and ordained man through Your wisdom, that he should have dominion over all creatures which You have made, Wisdom 9: 2

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- and ordered the world according to equity and righteousness, and execute judgment with an upright heart: Wisdom 9: 3

- give me wisdom, that sits by Your throne; and reject me not from among Your children;

Wisdom 9: 4

- send her out of Your holy heavens, and from the throne of Your glory, that being present she may labor with me, that I may know what is pleasing unto You. Wisdom 9: 10

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- For she knows and understands all things, and she shall lead me soberly in my doings, and preserve me in her power. Wisdom 9: 11
- So all my works shall be acceptable. Wisdom 9: 12
- Asking all in Jesus name. John 14: 14
- Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as in heaven. Matthew 6: 10
- For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Matthew 6: 13 Amen.

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- We are children only once, and then only for a few brief years, our most impressionable years of a lifetime. Never again will the world and everything in it be so eternally new, so filled with wonder. Never again will physical, mental, and spiritual growth be so natural. During these years, habits become ingrained. Tastes are developed, personality takes form. The child's whole being is geared toward learning. The child instinctively reaches out for truth and having no prejudices, seizes upon the good, just, and beautiful. Every child deserves books

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that reveal and reflect truth, like the Bible that doesn't deny the existence of evil, but emphasize man's thrilling struggle against evil through faith, courage, and perseverance. This is every child's birthright.

- Our focus tonight is on a harvest that make us United States citizens. No other tribe or group of people can claim these holidays. They make us a peculiar people, called Ephraim by the ancients and established long before by Elohim and blessed by Jehovah.

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- When Joseph took Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left toward Israel's right hand, Israel put his right hand upon Ephraim the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh Joseph set Ephraim before Manasseh.

- **Text:** Genesis 48: 14-20 ASV

Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the first-born. And he blessed Joseph, and said,

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The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God who hath fed me all my life long unto this day, the angel who hath redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth. And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head. And Joseph said unto his



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father, Not so, my father; for this is the first-born; put thy right hand upon his head. And his father refused, and said, I know it , my son, I know it ; he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: howbeit his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations. And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee will Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

- **Text:** Genesis 50: 23-25 ASV

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Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation: the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were born upon Joseph's knees. And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die; but God will surely visit you, and bring you up out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you.

- This is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. Moses gives Joseph; Manasseh and

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Ephraim the precious things of the earth by the good of Him that dwelt in the bush, in contrast to Joseph's past separation from his brethren. Manasseh, Ephraim, and Benjamin, the three sons of Rachel, marched west of tabernacle.

- **Text:** Deuteronomy 33: 13-17 ASV

And of Joseph he said, Blessed of Jehovah be his land, For the precious things of heaven, for the dew, And for the deep that coucheth beneath, And for the precious things of the fruits of the sun, And for the precious things of the

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growth of the moons, And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, And for the precious things of the everlasting hills, And for the precious things of the earth and the fulness thereof, And the good will of him that dwelt in the bush. Let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, And upon the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren. The firstling of his herd, majesty is his; And his horns are the horns of the wild-ox: With them he shall push the peoples all of them, even the ends of the earth: And they are the ten

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thousands of Ephraim, And they are the thousands of Manasseh.

- Labor Day

In the United States a civilization was carved out of the wilderness by the labor of the people. A powerful modern nation emerged through the toil of its pioneers and the work of its industrial force.

Working conditions have not always been what they are today. For many years the tremendous wealth and power of a few men combined to

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make virtual slaves of the workers in industry. But the self-respect of these workers gave birth to the world's first large scale organizations of labor.

At the suggestion of Peter J. McGuire, a leader in two labor organizations, "Labor's Holiday" was first celebrated in New York on 5 September 1882, to honor the industrial spirit, the great vital force of the nation. In 1894 the United States government honored the labor unions, the workers, and the dignity of work by proclaiming Labor Day, the first Monday in

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September, a national holiday.

- Memorial Day

A day that honors dead soldiers is always one of mixed emotions. We are proud of the glory they have won, proud of the job they have done to keep us free. And we are sad that good men had to suffer and die.

Memorial Day was called Decoration Day when on 30 May 1868, General John A. Logan, Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued the order that "... every post of

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the G.A.R. should hold suitable exercises and decorate the graves of their dead comrades with flowers."

Memorial Day originally reminded us of those who died during the Civil War, a battle in which our countrymen fought each other. North against South, brother against brother, father against son. Those who died for the South and states rights were just as sure they were right as those who had died for the North and the Union.



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Today Memorial Day, celebrated on the last Monday of May, honors the dead of all our wars.

- Flag Day

On 14 June 1777, the United States flag, consisting of thirteen stars and thirteen stripes, was approved by the Continental Congress. In the original red, white, and blue flag, each state was represented by one star and one stripe. As the country grew, so did the flag - a new star and stripe for each state. But in 1818 Congress

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ruled that the original thirteen stripes be restored and on that fourth of July following the admission of a new state, a new star be added. We now have fifty stars for our fifty states.

14 June, the birthday of our flag, became a holiday in New York state in 1897. In the next few years other states joined New York. But it was not until 1916 that President Wilson established Flag Day by national proclamation.

According to the Department of State, red stands for hardiness of courage, white is the

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symbol of purity and innocence, and blue is the color of vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

- Veterans' Day

On 11 November 1918, an armistice was signed that freed the world from the horrors of its first World War. That day was kept as a reminder that such a war must never come again.

But it did – more terrible than before. It was followed by police actions and small wars. The United States in 1954 made November 11 a day

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for honoring the dead and living of all wars. On this day, previously known as Armistice Day, we pay high tribute to the men and women who, in Woodrow Wilson's phrase, have fought to make the world safe for democracy.

- Independence Day

Many colonial statesmen were hesitant about severing bonds with Great Britain. But the crusade for independence gathered more and more support as it became increasingly apparent that only through force of arms could

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the colonies win the prize of liberty.

4 July 1776, Congress passed the Declaration of Independence, announcing to the world "... That these United States are, and of Right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved..."

The colonies had at last taken the step that meant either liberty or death. A union of states

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had never existed before. Now it was crucial that the states work and fight as one. The men who framed the Declaration had written "... we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." Excited men in the streets knew that this meant, in the words of Benjamin Franklin, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

So the thirteen colonies joined forces against Great Britain. They asserted their right to "Life,

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Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," and the United States of America was born.

- **Let voices unite praying our Preamble:**

We the people of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

- We are a blessed and peculiar people!

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Let us never forget: Jehovah, God of Israel, brought such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heard of it, both his ears tingle. He wiped Jerusalem as a man wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. He cast off His remnant of inheritance, delivering them into the hand of their enemies. They became a prey and a spoil to all their enemies; because they did evil in His sight, shedding innocent blood; provoking Him to anger (II Kings 21: 12-16).