



WHEREAS, we recognize the vision of our founder's understanding that religious freedom of expression was fundamental in the formation of our great nation; and

WHEREAS, these freedoms have helped us to create and sustain a nation of remarkable religious vitality and diversity across the generations; and

WHEREAS, The United States of American recognizes devout persons from every nation have come to America seeking the freedom to worship free from persecution; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge our local history is closely bound to the privilege granted by our Constitution as early settlers in Holland, Michigan under the leadership of Albertus Van Raalte came to Holland to find the freedom to express their faith according to their conscience; and

WHEREAS, prayer has always been an integral part of American life. In every city, town, and rural community across our country, people of every religious denomination gather to worship according to their faith. In churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques; and

WHEREAS, people of faith lift our voices and hearts in prayers of thanksgiving for the blessing of freedom; and

WHEREAS, people of faith pray for the health and happiness of loved ones; for inner peace and peace among nations; and for the wisdom to face the challenges of today; and

WHEREAS, in times of crisis we pray for courage, strength, wisdom, protection, and assistance to better serve our community; and

WHEREAS, we pray for the peace in our communities across America and nations who are facing challenges to their way of life; and

WHEREAS, we confront the crises and challenges of our time we call upon the power of prayer to provide hope and uplift us for the work ahead; and

WHEREAS, on this National Day of Prayer and every day we unite with purpose and resolve; and recommit ourselves to the core freedoms that helped define our nation and by extension our community; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the blessing that we can exercise our convictions freely, no matter our faith or beliefs; and

WHEREAS, let us find in our prayers the determination to overcome adversity, rise above our differences, and come together as one to meet this moment in our history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nathan Bocks, Mayor of the City of Holland, Michigan, and members of the Holland City Council, call on residents to reaffirm and celebrate the role of prayer in our community and to honor the religious diversity of America on the

National Day of Prayer

celebrated on May 4, 2023, and encourage our residents to join in prayer in their own manner, seeking strength from God to face the problems of today, requesting guidance for good will among all people, and giving thanks for the rich blessings that our community and our nation have enjoyed throughout our history.



Given under my hand and the seal of the
City of Holland, this 3rd of May 2023

Mayor Nathan Bocks