
I. America the Beautiful 248th Anniversary

What Makes America Beautiful?

America, America — America, America — God shed his grace on thee, and Crown thy GOOD with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea.

God mend thine every flaw, Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law

Calling — City on a Hill

Promise — Liberty (Opportunity)

Threats — Backsliding

[Deuteronomy 32:15](#) But Jeshurun **grew fat**, and **kicked**; you grew fat, stout, and sleek; **then** he **forsook God** who made him and **scoffed** at the Rock of his salvation.

Ways to Engage — Intercession, Political Engagement, Gospel Proclamation and Demonstration

A. Unique Foundational Principles

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that **all men are created equal**, that they are **endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights**, that among these are **Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness**.--That to secure these rights, **Governments** are instituted among Men, **deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed**, — Declaration of Independence

All men CREATED equal and ENDOWED with unalienable rights —

These are Divinely given rights NOT granted by the government

Life — Liberty — Pursuit of Happiness (opportunity “even as your soul prospers)

[3 John 2](#) (NKJV) Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain. America, America — God shed his grace on thee, and Crown thy GOOD with brotherhood, from sea

to shining sea.

**God mend thine every flaw, Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law**

Land of the Free Home of the Brave

B. A Unique Experiment

Western Civilization

Jerusalem — Morality, Human Life, Order through distinction (Gospel, Judaeo-Christian value system)

Athens — The elevation of reason

Roman Republic — The rule of law

Yale professor **David Gelernter** (who is a Jew, not a Christian) has expressed it perfectly:

“Americanism is nearly unique in being a whole political worldview. Its creed is **liberty, equality, democracy**, and American Zionism: **America as the promised land**, the shining city on a hill, **a nation tasked by God to be a beacon to the world**; to be the world’s only biblical republic.”

David Gelernter. *America-Lite* (p. 8). Encounter Books. Kindle Edition.

“Ours was the first revolution in the history of mankind that truly reversed the course of government, **and** with **three little words**: ‘We the People.’ ‘We the People’ tell the government what to do; it doesn’t tell us. ‘We the People’ are the driver; the government is the car. And we decide where it should go, and by what route, and how fast. Almost all the world’s constitutions are documents in which governments tell the people what their privileges are. Our Constitution is a document in which “We the People” tell the government what it is allowed to do. ‘We the People’ are free. This belief has been the underlying basis for everything I’ve tried to do these past eight years.” — Ronald Reagan, Farewell message, 1989

C. A Crisis of Identity — Have we forgotten who we are?

[Isaiah 63:16–19](#) (ESV) **[slide 1]**

¹⁶ For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

¹⁹ We have *become like those over whom you have never ruled*, like those who are not called by your name.

“An informed patriotism is what we want. And are we doing a good enough job teaching our children what America is and what she represents in the long history of the world? Those of us who are over 35 (73) or so years of age grew up in a different America. We were taught, very directly, what it means to be an American. And we absorbed, almost in the air, a love of country and an appreciation of its institutions. If you didn’t get these things from your family, you got them from the neighborhood, from the father down the street who fought in Korea, or the family who lost someone at Anzio. Or you could get a sense of patriotism from school. And if all else failed you could get a sense of patriotism from the popular culture. The movies celebrated democratic values and implicitly reinforced the idea that America was special. TV was like that, too, through the mid-sixties.” — R. Reagan, *ibid*.

D. A Cry for Intervention

[Isaiah 64:1](#) (ESV)

¹ Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—

II. Life — A Gift from God

[John 10:10](#) (ESV) *[slide 2]*

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came ***that they may have life*** and have it abundantly.

A. Human Life is Sacred, the Crown of Creation.

June 24, 2022 @ 10:10 AM! The Dobbs Decision!

Abortion (killing of babies) Not a constitutional right.

Life Culture!

60 year anniversary of Engel v. Vitale June 25, 1962

Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our country. Amen.

in 49 years — 63.4 million babies.

We celebrate the goodness of God, the perseverance of those who prayed and worked tirelessly to change that!

There are **more Crisis Pregnancy Centers than abortion centers!** More to be done, but this is a big breakthrough.

Gov. Shapiro, this year quietly pulled support for the only CPC receiving PA funding. Now only Planned Parenthood is funded! — You might want to write to him! Tell him you don't approve!

Ishtar and Baal Worship — Sexual Perversity and the Blood Sacrifice of Infants — no longer enforced by federal decree!

London Breed, SF Mayor during a debate: "Can you name 3 Drag Queens?"

Slaughter of the Unborn — **No limits, no doctors, no parents, and no laws**

Florida Amendment 4, entitled "Amendment to Limit Government Interference in Abortion"

Now ROE is back to the states... and the voters. ***The consent of the governed...***

One of the first verses ever given to Anne and me.

[Isaiah 49:24-25](#) (ESV) **Can the prey be taken from the mighty**, or the captives of a tyrant be rescued? ²⁵ For thus says the LORD: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken, and the prey of the tyrant be rescued, for **I will contend** with those who contend with you, and I will save your children.

Perceiving and HONORING LIFE is the essence of our COMMUNION, essence of the GOSPEL

[1 John 1:1-3](#) (ESV) That *which was from the beginning*, which we **have heard**, which we have **seen with our eyes**, which we **looked upon** and have **touched with our hands**, concerning the ***word of life***—

² the ***life was made manifest***, and we have ***seen it***, and ***testify to it*** and ***proclaim*** to you the ***eternal life***, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ***[slide 3]***

³ that which we have seen and heard ***we proclaim also to you***, so that you too may have ***fellowship with us***; and indeed our fellowship is ***with the Father*** and ***with his Son*** Jesus Christ.

III. Liberty — Gift and Calling

A. Gift of Liberty

[John 8:31-32](#) (ESV) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in **my word**, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will **know the truth**, and the truth **will set you free.**" ***[slide 4]***

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

[Galatians 5:1](#) (ESV) **For freedom** Christ has set us free; **stand firm** therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. **[slide 5]**

B. Liberty — America’s Foundation and Calling

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is not merely a geographical location. And unlike most of the world’s nations, Americans are not, and never have been, a race or an ethnicity. America is and has always regarded itself as an idea. That idea is **a value system**. —Dennis Prager. *Still the Best Hope* (p. 311). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.

We need to celebrate the LIVING GOD and all his goodness.

[Psalm 145:1-3](#) (ESV)

¹ I will **extol** you, my **God and King**, and **bless your name forever and ever**.

² **Every day** I will **bless you** and **praise your name forever** and ever. **[slide 6]**

⁴ **One generation shall commend your works to another**, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁷ They shall **pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness** and shall **sing aloud** of your **righteousness**.

“Younger parents aren’t sure that an unambivalent appreciation of America is the right thing to teach modern children. And as for those who create the popular culture, well-grounded patriotism is no longer the style....

“So, we’ve got to teach history based not on what’s in fashion but what’s important: why the Pilgrims came here, who Jimmy Doolittle was, and what those 30 seconds over Tokyo meant. You know, four years ago, on the 40th (2024 — 80th) anniversary of D-day, I read a letter from a young woman writing to her late father, who’d fought on Omaha Beach. ... she said, ‘We will always remember, we will never forget what the boys of Normandy did.’ Well, let’s help her keep her word. **If we forget what we did, we won’t know who we are**. I’m warning of an eradication of the American memory that could result, ultimately, in an erosion of the American spirit. Let’s start with some basics: more attention to American history and a greater emphasis on civic ritual.

“And let me offer **lesson number one** about America: **All great change in America begins at the dinner table**. So, tomorrow night in the kitchen I hope the talking begins. And children, if your parents haven’t been teaching you what it means to be an American, let ’em know and nail ’em on it. That would be a very American thing to do.” — R. Reagan, *ibid*.

The United States was the world’s **first free country**.

It was the country that most **inspired other countries to be free**.

It is the country that has been **free the longest**.

It is the country that has **most protected other free countries.**

It is the country that has **most spread freedom to other countries.**

This is all because the United States was **founded on the value of liberty.**

1. Surrounded by songs of deliverance

My country, 'tis of thee

Sweet land of liberty

Of thee I sing

Land where my fathers died Land of the pilgrims' pride

From every mountainside Let freedom ring

National anthem ends with these words:

“Oh say, does that star-spangled banner [the American flag] yet wave o’er the **land of the free** and the **home of the brave?**”

Why **France** built the **Statue of Liberty** as a gift to the American people.

2. No other country has exemplified liberty as has America.

More people from **more countries** have **immigrated** to America **in order to be free** than to **the rest of the world’s countries put together.**

More black Africans have immigrated to the United States voluntarily—looking for freedom and opportunity—than came to the United States involuntarily as slaves. (NYT 2005)

And no country has ever the **felt the obligation** to spread liberty elsewhere as has America.

3. Liberty has inspired Americans to generosity and sacrifice

[Galatians 5:13](#) For you were called to freedom, brothers. ... serve one another.”

[slide 7]

Animated Americans to courage & sacrifice in liberation of Europe in 2 world wars (and the Pacific in WW 2)

Animated Americans:

To fly food into West Berlin to break the Soviet blockade of the free city in the midst of East Germany.

To keep half the Korean peninsula from falling under Communist totalitarians.

Trying to keep half of Vietnam from falling under Comm. totalitarians.

To intervene on behalf of Muslims in Kosovo, Kurds, Afghans.

President **John F. Kennedy** famously expressed this belief in his inaugural address in 1961, proclaiming,

“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty.”

Unlikely that a leader of any other country would make such a statement.

Patrick Henry, “Give me liberty or give me death.”

4. What Liberty Means

Political freedom includes:

Religious freedom

Freedom from religious coercion

Freedom of assembly

Freedom of speech

Economic freedom

Freedom of the press

Freedom from the state – the reason that so many people around the world see America as a land of opportunity.

Liberty necessitates small government.

IV Pursuit of Happiness

[John 10:10](#) (ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

[John 15:10-12](#) (ESV) If you **keep my commandments**, you will **abide in my love**, ...¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that **my joy may be in you**, and **that your joy may be full**.¹² “This is my commandment, **that you love one another** as I have loved you.

E Pluribus Unum — From Many One

[Psalm 133 1](#) Behold, how **good** and pleasant it is when **brothers dwell in unity!** ... 3b
For there the Lord has **commanded the blessing**, life forevermore.”

In God We Trust

[Hebrews 11:6](#) And **without faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God **must believe** that he **exists** and that **he rewards** those who seek him.

Thanksgiving for America

Prayer for America, for Pennsylvania

For all the states.

VI Engagement —

Intercession (Adoration, Confession [repentance & declaration], Thanksgiving)

Steward the Liberty!

REGISTER; Engage with Local Opportunities; VOTE for LIFE,
LIBERTY, and the BLESSING of GOD.

Politics is Ethics (personal, interpersonal)
made Practical

Share the Good News -

Love

Proclaim

Demonstrate

Signs, Wonders, Good Works

Song — NO LONGER SLAVES