



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State honors and acknowledges that collective reflection strengthens social fabric; praying for friends, family, neighbors, and newcomers is an act of love and respect, not done in the interest of self, but in service to others; and

Whereas, New York State welcomes and values the autonomy of those seeking peace and belonging by way of deep reflection when in need of divine support; and

Whereas, the first call to prayer was in 1775, when the Continental Congress sought wisdom for a new nation; in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln called for a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer," in 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed a joint resolution establishing a National Day of Prayer, and in 1988, President Ronald Reagan officially designated it as an annual tradition on the first Thursday in May; and

Whereas, silent invocation is a collective experience regardless of designated space or time, bonding all persons because faith transcends formality; and

Whereas, uplifting the common good is made possible with shared moral purpose, which creates a stronger community; albeit time for devotions is a personal choice, and New York State honors the dignity of self-determination while preserving peace, safety, and justice for all during established observances of prayer and every day;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2026, as

DAY OF PRAYER

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fourth day
of May in the year two thousand twenty-six.



Kathy Hochul

Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh