

## One Nation Under God

Thanksgiving is more than a day in November  
That students of history are taught to remember,  
More than a date that we still celebrate  
With turkey and dressing piled high on our plate.  
For while we still offer the traditional prayer,  
We pray out of habit without being aware  
That the Pilgrims thanked God just for being alive,  
For the strength that He gave them to endure and survive  
Hunger and hardship that's unknown in the present,  
While progress and plenty have made our lives pleasant.  
And living today in this great and rich nation  
That depends not on God but on mechanization,  
We tend to forget that our forefathers came  
To establish a country under God's name.  
But we feel we're so strong we no longer need faith  
And it now has become nothing more than a wraith  
Of the faith that once founded this powerful nation  
In the name of the Maker and the Lord of Creation.  
Oh, reach us, dear God; we are all pilgrims still,  
Subject alone to Your guidance and will.  
And show us the way to purposeful living  
So we may have reason for daily thanksgiving,  
And make us once more a God-fearing nation  
And not just a puppet of controlled automation.

—Helen Steiner Rice