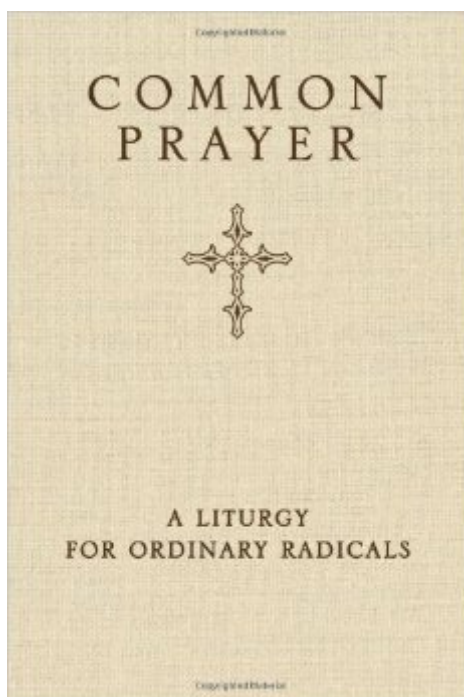


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# Common Prayer: A Liturgy For Ordinary Radicals



## Synopsis

Common Prayer helps today's diverse church pray together across traditions and denominations. With an ear to the particulars of how various liturgical traditions pray, and using an advisory team of liturgy experts, the authors have created a tapestry of prayer that celebrates the best of each tradition. The book also includes a unique songbook composed of music and classic lyrics to over fifty songs from various traditions, including African spirituals, traditional hymns, Mennonite gathering songs, and Taize chants. Tools for prayer are scattered throughout to aid those who are unfamiliar with liturgy and to deepen the prayer life of those who are familiar with liturgical prayer. Ultimately, Common Prayer makes liturgy dance, taking the best of the old and bringing new life to it with a fresh fingerprint for the contemporary renewal of the church. Churches and individuals who desire a deeper prayer life and those familiar with Shane Claiborne and New Monasticism will enjoy the tools offered in this book as a fresh take on liturgy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

After a few years of exploring Christianity, having been introduced to Christianity by Mennonites and Evangelicals, pretending to be a Presbyterian for a while, flirting a little with Orthodoxy and even less with Catholicism, I finally found a church home with the Anglicans last year and have since been confirmed as an Anglican. One of the beautiful things about Anglicanism is The Book of Common Prayer which I have fallen in love with and use for personal daily prayer. As other reviewers have noted (somewhat angrily) this book is not The Book of Common Prayer. Anyone

who has read the product description, though, is already aware of this. It has many characteristics of The Book of Common Prayer though. There are outlines for Evening and Noonday prayer, but rather than having a simple rubric for Morning Prayer the book is filled with individual devotionals for each day of the year. So, for those who are familiar with both the Anglican Book of Common Prayer and those evangelical devotionals with a thought/meditation/prayer/reading/all-or-some-of-the-above, it might be helpful to think of this as something in between. Perhaps it is not fair of me to write this review as I have certainly not read the entirety of the book (and I probably won't be done until a year from now--that's how the book works), but I will do my best to provide a review of what I have read of it. The introduction is pretty good. It won't provide the depth of history behind liturgy that people who have already fallen in love with, studied, and practice liturgy would like. It is exactly what it claims to be--an introduction and nothing more. It seems that the intended audience is more those that are unfamiliar with liturgy than those who are familiar with it.

I received my copy right before the first day in the book (December 1st) so I've been praying with this book daily since then. I am loving it! As an individual who loves liturgy and common prayer but would not consider himself to be Anglican/Episcopalian nor necessarily a part of any of the classic liturgical denominations, I find this prayer book to be a refreshing look at the 'style' - if you will. As a youth pastor, this has been a good way for me to introduce a form daily and communal prayer and Scripture study to some of my more dedicated kids without having to throw extra explicitly denominational traditions/ideas/concepts on them that they may not be familiar with nor do they necessarily need. Although it does mention this 'New Monasticism' stuff, it's more of a "hey check this out if you want to" and not shoved down your throat at every turn. I enjoy the Morning, Mid-day, and Evening setup. It allows you to start your day with good prayer, good Word, and some thoughts to roll over in your mind for the day that stem from a multitude of traditions. I've been pleased to read quotes from Church Fathers all the way to modern missionaries. I've found that taking the Mid-day prayer at my lunch break has made my workday much more (only word I can think of to put here is 'beautiful'). And the Evening prayer helps me to go to bed on a good note no matter what. I also enjoy the 'Becoming the Answer to Our Prayers' ideas at the end of each month with ways to put the faith into practice. I like the inclusion of the Occasional Prayers, especially the adoption prayer. My only concern is the Songbook doesn't include complete lyrics.

I received this book, Common Prayer--A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, just before Christmas. I've

had almost a couple weeks with it and I like it; I like it a lot. I've had the opportunity to compare through examination and actual practice, this prayer book with several prayer guides and books that I regularly use. I am impressed with the bridge it makes between the ancient, the "old," and the contemporary. There are several things that have taken me a little bit to get used to, but that is probably more likely attributed to my being accustomed to other prayer book styles as opposed to any fault of Common Prayer. The layout or flow of the Liturgy begins with the evening prayer; a little different from what I am used to, but I was able to find my footing rather quickly. The second section, and meat of the Liturgy, follows evening prayer and is titled, Morning Prayer. This section is effectively the Liturgy of the Day comprised of prayers, psalms, Scripture lessons, and song/hymn for the day. I like that the months have been themed and the prayer hours of that month have been appropriately grouped to compliment the month. I also appreciate there are suggestions for reading that help to inspire and educate the reader to selected theme. Two remaining sections of the book include Occasional Prayers for specific events or seasons, and a songbook with hymns and songs. As a musician, I am thankful for the music notation and the guitar chords included in this collection of hymns. While I prefer a couple of other resources for my personal devotions, I have found the perfect (first time) use for this Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals prayer book. I am starting the year using it with in my morning family devotions and Bible reading.

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