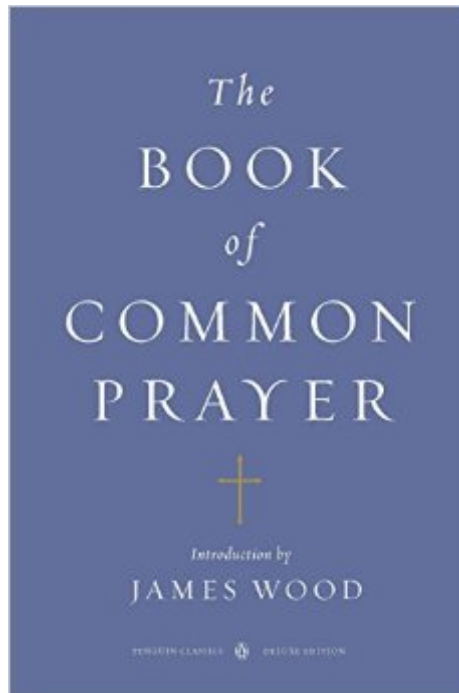


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The Book Of Common Prayer: (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition)



Synopsis

An exquisite Deluxe Edition of the Anglican prayer book and literary masterpiece commemorates the 350th anniversary of the 1662 edition intimately familiar to our most enduring writers. As essential to the canon as the Bible and the plays of Shakespeare, The Book of Common Prayer has been in daily use for centuries. Originally produced for the Church of England in the sixteenth century by Thomas Cranmer, who was burned at the stake upon the accession to the throne of the ardently Catholic Queen Mary, it contains the entire liturgy as first presented in English—as well as some of the oldest phrases to be used by modern English speakers. Here are daily prayers, scripture readings, psalm recitals, and the services marking such religious milestones as baptism, confirmation, and marriage, all from the 1662 edition, whose influence can be seen in the work of some of the greatest writers in English literature, from Donne and Swift to Austen and the Brontës. This beautiful deluxe edition includes a new introduction by The New Yorker's book critic James Wood, discussing how The Book of Common Prayer has influenced the English language and literature. Its small trim size allows for easy portability as a daily devotional. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

This is a very nice book and I enjoy having it. I just have to point out one inaccuracy in the introduction by James Wood. He says that "the 1552 Book of Common Prayer became the established collective liturgy of the Church of England for the next three hundred years" and that "the 1662 edition...is identical in all important respects to its 1552 predecessor." But in fact, the Book of Common Prayer was revised again in 1559 at the Elizabethan Settlement. In 1552, during the reign of Edward VI, the Church of England was under the influence of radical Calvinist and Zwinglian reformers. As Mr. Wood notes, they added the Black Rubric which denied any "real and essential presence" of Christ in the Lord's Supper, and also changed the liturgy of the Eucharist to remove the reference to eating the Body and Blood of Christ. Elizabeth I reversed those changes in the 1559 revision. This was a "Settlement" because it settled the dispute between the radical reformers on one hand and the shift back toward Rome that occurred under Mary I. I would certainly call denial vs. acceptance of the Real Presence an "important respect". It is the 1559 version, not the 1552 one, on which the present (1662) Book of Common Prayer is largely based, and it is the Elizabethan Settlement, not Calvinism or Zwinglianism, which has guided the Church of England since. I found it sloppy to imply that 1552 was the last previous revision. That said, the 1662 version does include a modified version of the 1552 Black Rubric. This was to appease the Puritans who had taken control during the Interregnum, but confuses otherwise clear Anglican teaching about the Eucharist (see [...]) So although I like this book, since Elizabeth I did not authorize the Black Rubric I might eventually want a copy of the 1559 version that she did use.

I miss the traditional and familiar language in the Book of Common Prayer. In the U.S., the 1979 book omits the gospels and epistles for the Sundays. I have found the Book of Common Prayer to keep me on track when my faith is weak. This familiar edition is precious to me.

Easy-to-hold paperback edition of 1662 British Book of Common Prayer, with generous font size and folded end-papers. With modern introduction and typography, this could be considered a "reader's edition" of this classic prayer-book. (The similarly sized Oxford World Classic volume, edited by Brian Cummings, also has full 1662 version in smaller font-size, along with excerpts from original 1549 and subsequent 1559 revision, and copious end-notes.) Psalms in the Book of Common Prayer date even earlier, to the translation of Miles Coverdale.

Intro is expansion of New Yorker piece, and adds a lot for non-Church of England folks. A real piece of Western culture.

At times it is a wonderful reference book; at other times it remains a genuinely spiritual experience. Very meaningful for those of us who were brought up with the traditional prayer book - you just can't beat the language used, and the reverence it evokes. The book also reminded me of the hours I spent in church looking through the list of people one could not marry and trying to work out what that would mean in my family.

This prayer book is beautifully written and in conformity with Christian truth as found in Scripture and Tradition. Quotations are from the KJV Bible. The Psalms are from the Coverdale Bible. Morning and Evening prayer start with penitential verses which may be off putting to those unused to them but needful reminders to always strive to be better. Prayers accurately address our human condition. Book contains the Athanasian Creed and 39 Articles of Religion. Completely trustworthy.

I love this book because it is one that I have been brought up with. Its essence helps to sustain me. It is so easy to have it with me, wherever I am, now that it's on my Kindle!

A perfect prayers book to have at home. In addition to all the Episcopal services the book has prayers for all occasions. Great reference for Episcopal liturgy and even answers to questions in the back.

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