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Praying Shapes Believing: A Theological Commentary On The Book Of Common Prayer



Synopsis

Praying Shapes Believing

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Customer Reviews

My guess is that most people who have stood for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church since this book was published have been required to read it as part of their training. In just a bit over a decade, it's become THE book on the Book of Common Prayer. Mitchell's basic assumption is the old "lex orandi lex credendi" proviso: how we pray influences what we believe. Since the Book of Common Prayer is the center of how Episcopalians corporately pray, it follows that an examination of it can reveal the theology to which it gives rise. Looking at every aspect of the Book of Common Prayer, Mitchell examines the connection between liturgy, scripture, prayer, and theology. The examination is thorough, running through the liturgical calendar, the Great Vigil, baptism, Holy Eucharist, pastoral offices, and ordinations. In all fairness, two points need to be made. The first is that Mitchell is one of the most uninspiring authors you'll every run across. The topic about which he's writing is interesting, but be prepared to slog through prose whose academic dryness will challenge your determination. Second, Mitchell's examination is broad but not terribly deep. Historical roots of many aspects of the Book of Common Prayer's liturgy are barely tapped. Dom Gregory Dix's wonderful book on liturgy is a good supplement here.

The Book of Common Prayer has been tremendously influential for centuries as a beautifully written

and carefully considered gathering of the rites of both group and individual Christian worship. This easy-to-read guide explains what the various liturgies in the BCP mean. I wish I had read it twenty-plus years ago.

I think that this book, when coupled with modern work on the importance or influence of word choice, is a remarkable source of information and insight into the depth and breadth of the Book of Common Prayer.

Excellent and easy to read content assisting with understanding and interpreting the BCP and liturgy. Lived up to the favorable recommendation from our priest.

This is a really good explanation of the biblical groundedness of the 1979 BCP. It explains well why changes were made from the 1928 BCP. It is very well done.

Using this as a study guide in course offered by Diocese. Excellent review and new material. Recommend as a resource for inquirer classes.

Classic commentary on the 1979 BCP which every person who regularly plans Episcopal worship or teaches about it should own.

This is wonderful book that opens up the treasures in the Book of Common Prayer.

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