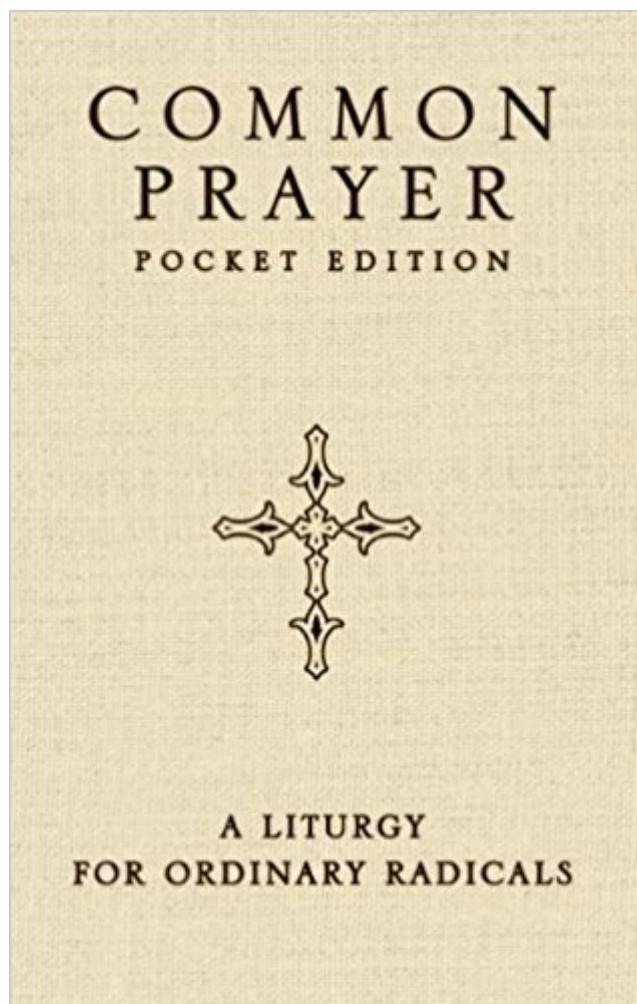


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# Common Prayer Pocket Edition: A Liturgy For Ordinary Radicals



## Synopsis

Common Prayer Pocket Edition helps individuals and today's diverse church pray together across traditions and denominations. With an ear to the particulars of various liturgical prayer traditions, and using an advisory team of liturgy experts, the authors have created a tapestry of prayer that celebrates the best of each tradition. This convenient and portable book also includes tools for prayer scattered throughout to aid those unfamiliar with liturgy and deepen the prayer life of those already familiar with liturgical prayer. Common Prayer Pocket Edition adds new prayers for compline (late evening) and for individual use, such as prayers for travel, protection, and various blessings. It includes a table of days and readings for the morning prayers as well as an annotated list of saints and days to remember. 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

It's more than a book--it's a movement.

Shane Claiborne, author of *The Irresistible Revolution* and *Jesus for President*, is a founder of The Simple Way, a community in inner-city Philadelphia that has helped birth and connect radical faith communities around the world. [thesimpleway.org](http://thesimpleway.org) Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, author of *God's Economy* and *The Wisdom of Stability*, directs the School for Conversion and lives with his family at

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. It is what you would expect from the New Monastics in its critical attitude toward government and the idea of serving the Kingdom of God being mutually exclusive of serving the nations of this world. The point of being ecumenical is stressed over and over. It doesn't give a very complete history of liturgical prayer. Rather it just stresses that liturgy is a big part of the church's history. As the unhappy Anglican/Episcopal reviewers have mentioned, Thomas Cranmer is not even mentioned. The Morning Prayers are pretty sweet. For those of you who are used to a tradition that uses liturgy, you'll either feel comfortable because of the way it seems sort of like what you use or you'll feel a bit uneasy about how it seems almost like it but not quite. I swung back and forth between those feelings reading the first nine days of morning prayers to get caught up. Aside from the liturgical aspect, the stories and quotes inserted about saints/heroes of Christianity are awesome. Great short little stories about amazing people. I really like this about this book. One criticism I have about the liturgy in this book is that there's no reference made to where the material came from. I recognize a lot of it from my beloved Book of Common Prayer and a lot is straight out

of the Bible, while other bits sound vaguely familiar. I've been to a lot of different kinds of churches and read a lot of liturgy, but I'm no expert so I can't pinpoint where it all came from. I wish there were a bunch of footnotes saying where all the material came from. That would be helpful in understanding what we're saying. Also, it's kind of difficult to appreciate another culture/tradition/time period's contribution when it's not even given credit. These people have clearly mined through so much material; I just wish I could have a map of where they've gone to get all of this. The Occasional Prayers section is pretty helpful. A lot of these are comparable to some of the prayers in the Book of Common Prayer with a few notable ones that have no parallel prayer in the Book of Common Prayer. Two that really stood out to me are A Litany to Honor Women and Death of Someone Killed in the Neighborhood. I specifically like these two because these are things I've actually tried to pray about and felt unable to find the words. Scripted prayers provide words to pray when you don't know how to put words to your thoughts and feelings. In conclusion, I wish this book were more thoroughly annotated to provide a richer understanding of where the prayers come from, but aside from that I'm really liking it. As far as the criticism made by a couple of my disgruntled fellow Anglicans that it's not The Book of Common Prayer, they're absolutely right, so if you're looking for that just buy that. It's a pretty sweet book too. It's definitely got the leanings of the New Monastics. It's got their subversive pacifist fingerprints all over it (and I like that). It's different from any prayer book you've seen and hopefully will make everyone feel a little bit welcome and a little bit displaced, which is good because we've got a lot to learn from trying out other folks' ways of doing things. I'm sure I'll find more I like and dislike about it as the year goes on and this review is certainly not my final take on it, but hopefully some of you can benefit from my thoughts from the first few readings. Grace and Peace to all of you.

It's a bit difficult to read on Kindle, unfortunately. But I enjoyed this as a very different approach to devotionals. Sometimes, you just need something radically different to reach your heart again

If you're looking for a concise but well-developed book to help build your daily prayer rhythm, this is the one. There are a variety of prayers that inspire and provoke meditation, a list of historical dates and important spiritually-oriented people, and the time-tested and beautiful prayers and meditations based on the "Hours" observed in various Christian monasteries/convents. I especially enjoy praying the Compline which is a collection of meditative and quieting prayers and Bible passages for the end of the day.

I have now purchased five copies of this book (and given three of them away as gifts). Compilers Claiborne, Wilson-Hartgrove, and Okoro are "emerging church" advocates. So, they are "out of the box" thinkers; but in a different way than we would expect. One of the most refreshing things about these newer Evangelicals is their zeal for retrieving some traditions that earlier generations had shelved as being "impractical." Here are the rites Christian Daily Prayer, updated and returned to those of us who never wanted to give them up. Only those who want to retrieve what has been lost in church tradition because it seems to be no longer "contemporary" could understand this book's sub-title: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals. This is the book that begins my workday with me and the devotional book I take with me when I travel.

I first experienced this book when spending a week with friends. We used it everyday for home prayers and meditation. As a cradle Episcopalian, I am right at home with the basic format. At the same time, I truly like its emphasis on meditation and reflection. A wonderful book to have and use on a daily basis to further enhance a person's daily devotions, or to begin anew, or for the first time, a commitment to doing daily devotions.

This book is more than I expected, and I find myself using it almost daily for devotions and reference. I love the language and the references. The Scripture guide for the daily readings is good, and I am reading passages that don't normally appear in the lectionary. The selection listing information on the "ordinary radicals" is very enlightening. The pocket size is convenient to take along with me everywhere. I recommend it to all my prayer friends.

Have ever been at a loss for words but really desired to pray? If so this book is a must have resource which provides those words when they are not coming. I love how there are prayers for morning, noon & night in addition to various special occasions. Regardless of Christian denomination this book provides a great framework to pray for others & in the process strengthen your relationship with Jesus in an intimate way. I praise & thank God for those He used to create this book!

This is a very useful tool for daily prayers and meditations.

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