

# **THE BOOK OF COMMON ORDER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649312368

The Book of Common Order by Church of Scotland & John Carswell & Thomas M'lauchlan

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND & JOHN CARSWELL & THOMAS M'LAUHLAN**

# **THE BOOK OF COMMON ORDER**



THE BOOK  
OF  
COMMON ORDER

*TRANSLATED INTO GAELIC A.D. 1457*

EDITED BY THOMAS M'LAUCHLAN, LL.D.

Translator of "the Book of the Dean of Lismore."

EDMONSTON & DOUGLAS, 88 PRINCES STREET,

MDCCCLXXIII.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

PREFACE, . . . . .	vii ix
NOTICE OF BISHOP CARSWELL, . . . . .	xiii
—————	
DEDICATION, . . . . .	1
EPISTLE DEDICATORY, . . . . .	2
CARSWELL'S BLESSING, . . . . .	17
EPISTLE TO THE READER, . . . . .	18
HYMN TO THE BOOK, . . . . .	24
CONFESSION OF FAITH, . . . . .	25
OF THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY, . . . . .	30
OF THE OFFICE OF THE ELDERSHIP, . . . . .	45
OF THE OFFICE OF THE DEACONSHIP, . . . . .	46
INTERPRETATION OF THE SCRIPTURES, . . . . .	49
CONFESSION, . . . . .	50
PRAYERS, . . . . .	54, 60, 63, 70
THE LORD'S PRAYER, . . . . .	70
PRAYER, . . . . .	70

	PAGE
THE CREED, . . . . .	71
BENEDICTION, . . . . .	72
PRAYERS, . . . . .	73, 86, 88
FORM OF BAPTISM, . . . . .	100
THE LORD'S SUPPER, . . . . .	130
FORM OF MARRIAGE, . . . . .	144
VISITATION OF THE SICK, . . . . .	155
BURIAL OF THE DEAD, . . . . .	159
THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CHURCH, . . . . .	161
MORNING FAMILY PRAYER, . . . . .	177
EVENING FAMILY PRAYER, . . . . .	184
PRAYERS, . . . . .	189, 193, 197, 200
CATECHISM, . . . . .	205
GRACE BEFORE AND AFTER MEALS, . . . . .	235-239
MANNER OF BLESSING A SHIP, . . . . .	240
THE LORD'S PRAYER IN METRE, . . . . .	242
LOWEST ABHOLY, . . . . .	244
VERSES, . . . . .	246
CLOSE, . . . . .	246

v. Leathan nan Gileann pp. 211-218.

## PREFACE.

---

THE old Scottish Prayer-book was originally published in Geneva. It was introduced into Scotland in the year 1562, and was circulated for general use in the vernacular. For the Highlands, however, such a work was of as little value as if it had been left in the original Latin; and it is specially creditable to KNOX and the Scottish Reformers, that they took measures to bring the Gaelic-speaking inhabitants of the Highlands under the same christianizing and civilising influences with the rest of the land. Soon after its appearance in English, it was accordingly resolved to have the Book of Common Order, as it was called, translated into Gaelic; and the work was undertaken by John Carswell, Superintendent of Argyll and the Isles in connexion with the early Scottish Presbyterian Church, and afterwards Bishop of the Isles. At whose instance the work was undertaken, it is not easy to say, whether at that of Carswell



himself, or at that of the Earl of Argyll, his patron, or in some measure at that of the leading ministers in the Church at the time. Let that be as it may, Carswell executed the work, and did so in a highly creditable manner. The book has become so scarce that there is only one perfect copy of it known to exist. That copy is in the possession of the Duke of Argyll. There is one imperfect copy in the British Museum, which was originally found in the house of a farmer in Stratherrick, near Inverness, and another in the Library of the Edinburgh University. The value set upon the work by scholars may be seen from the following extract from a letter of the Rev. Dr. Reeves of Armagh to the Editor:—

‘Having lately learned that of the only three  
‘known copies of the work but one is perfect,  
‘and that that one is in private possession, namely,  
‘in the Library of his Grace the Duke of Argyll,  
‘and subject to all the contingencies in the many  
‘degrees which occupy the space between the  
‘four cardinal points of mischief—fire, damp,  
‘worms, and thieves—my anxiety has become  
‘more intense, and I have resolved on appealing  
‘to you to take active steps for the perpetuation  
‘of this literary treasure. Here is a chapter in  
‘the History of Scotland, and much more, a mine  
‘of philological treasure in one important branch

‘ of the most interesting language in existence—  
 ‘ combining all the charms of living excellence, and  
 ‘ all the prestige of unfashionable antiquity, and  
 ‘ this on the very verge of extinction—one life in  
 ‘ a lease of incalculable value! Oh, do try and  
 ‘ convert that terminable lease into one of lives  
 ‘ renewable for ever.’

In the following Volume the Editor has endeavoured to accomplish the object thus described. He has given a transcript of the original Gaelic of Carswell's translation, page for page, and line for line. He has printed the language just as he found it, including the errors of the press. The English version of the Prayer-book, given along with the Gaelic, is taken from that in the Works of Knox, Edited by David Laing, Esq., LL.D. In some cases, however, the Editor was obliged to translate from the Gaelic. There is one Prayer of which he was unable to find the exact original in any copy of the Prayer-book which he has seen. He has been unable further to find any original for the Catechism of Carswell beyond the first few questions, which correspond with Calvin's. The mode of blessing a ship going to sea seems also to be original, while the graces before and after meals are so changed from the originals which the Editor has been able to discover, that he has preferred giving an English rendering of them. Some other fragments are

\* they are fairly exact translations of graces in the Confessions of Faith II 256-60.

also peculiar to Carswell's work. In one part, pp. 39-42, the English and the Gaelic division of the chapters do not correspond.

The Editor has to acknowledge his obligations to His Grace the Duke of Argyll for very essential aid in preparing this Volume; to the Senatus of the Edinburgh University, for the use of their copy of the Original, from which the transcript was chiefly made; and to David Laing, Esq., LL.D., for assistance in reproducing the English version of the Prayer-book.

THOS. M'LAUCHLAN.

EDINBURGH, *March* 19, 1875.