

**BOOK OF COMMON
ORDER FOR USE
IN CHURCH
SERVICES AND OFFICES**

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Book of common order for use in Church services and offices by Various

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PREFACE

To promote the orderly, reverent, and edifying conduct of Public Worship and other Services of the Church, in keeping with historical standards, is the ruling purpose of the present book. A Common Order in the government of the Church is recognized in every Christian communion; and a Common Order in regular Church Worship and Offices, without rigid uniformity, is correspondingly desirable, in so far as it is practicable. The freedom of the Spirit in fresh spontaneous expressions of devotion must ever be welcomed and conserved. The Forms of Service here following are not intended to restrict the exercise of such freedom. They are meant to be suggestive, to supply in specimens a standard and guide for Ministers, being at the same time corrective of irregular or extravagant effusions and of individual aberrations in the conduct of Church ordinances.

This book has been prepared by the Public Worship Committee appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and has received the 'general approval' of the Assembly 'for voluntary use'.

Orders for Church Services and Offices may follow either of two different types. One of these is mainly based upon older historical models and materials, hallowed by ancient or continuous use. The other is generally cast in more modern terms of expression, and makes use of more recent compositions, which are at the same time fittingly devotional and dignified. In keeping with this distinction, alternative Services for Public Worship and for several Offices are provided in the present volume. The one or the other may be used as found suitable in different congregations and upon different occasions.

We have made a liberal draft upon prayers which are part of the common inheritance of the Christian Church, or which have established their value through widespread use. Some of these have become generally known through recognized Prayer Books, but they were mostly drawn from earlier sources and are

PREFACE

common property. Many other prayers have been derived, either from kindred Service Books, or from individual sources, mostly outside the Committee, sometimes from its members.

In view of the representative character of the prayers here garnered, from many quarters and periods of time, the hope is cherished that this book, with slight adjustment of terms in certain Forms, may be found useful beyond as well as within the communion for which it was initially prepared, and may promote Christian unity through the cultivation of a community of soul and spiritual expression in Divine Worship among Christian people. Exemplifying the catholicity of the contents of the book, there are in the four Orders for Public Worship prayers derived from ancient liturgies associated with St. James, St. Mark, St. Basil, and St. Chrysostom, from Alcuin, from Calvin, and Cranmer, and from several recognized Ministers and Authors of our own generation.

We have to make grateful acknowledgement of indebtedness to outstanding Service Books, such as *The Book of Common Prayer*; *Euchologion: A Book of Common Order*; *The Book of Common Worship*; as well as to the original *Book of Common Order* known as John Knox's Liturgy, and to *The Westminster Directory*. In the list of Sources given in an Appendix we make acknowledgement of the authorship of individual prayers, in so far as we have been able to ascertain the same.

Our hope is that these forms of prayer, the select outcome of so many prayers, may beget more prayers among us, and lead many to train themselves in the suitable expression of common prayer, as the ever-present Spirit of the Lord may teach us to pray.

R. E. WELSH,

Convener of Committee.

JAS. LITTLE,

Secretary.

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PART I

**FORMS OF SERVICE FOR PUBLIC
WORSHIP**

WITH

ALTERNATIVE AND ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

