

PRAYERS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

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Prayers for Public Worship by John Service

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JOHN SERVICE

**PRAYERS FOR
PUBLIC WORSHIP**

PRAYERS
FOR
PUBLIC WORSHIP.

BY THE LATE
JOHN SERVICE, D.D.,
MINISTER OF HYNDLAND ESTABLISHED CHURCH, GLASGOW.



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PREFATORY NOTE.

THE singular influence acquired by the late Dr. Service as a religious teacher was thought by many members of his congregation to be due to some extent to an unusual combination of qualities in his sermons and in the prayers which he composed for public worship. The fearless frankness with which he gave expression to unpopular views, and opposed beliefs widely entertained in the Churches, when he held them to be dangerous, was in distinct, though perhaps only in apparent contrast to the deep reverence and all-

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embracing charity which characterized his prayers.

It has been thought, therefore, that to present these prayers in a collected form may gratify many of his friends, and may show more clearly the range and character of his teaching. He wrote them out with extreme care, and it is plain that he attached great importance to the adequate expression of the feelings by which he thought a Christian congregation should be animated. It is, however, difficult to present these prayers in such a form as he himself might have chosen. They are nowhere arranged for particular days of the month, for morning or evening service, or for special Church occasions. As he thought them suitable he was accustomed

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to select portions of one prayer, and combine them with parts of others.

The two friends to whom the arrangement and selection of the contents of this volume is due—the Rev. William Muirhead and the Very Rev. Principal Caird—have not felt themselves at liberty to make modifications in the manuscripts further than by the omission of a few passages repeated in different prayers.

No other form of religious composition can be made so conventional as this, but there is, perhaps, none in which a religious teacher can give truer expression to his deepest thoughts about man and God, and to his best hopes and aspirations. It is hoped that in the perusal of this little volume many readers may feel their own

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spirits drawn into more intimate fellowship with Him whom its writer served. By personal friends and by the members of his congregation it will be welcomed as the heartfelt and solemn expression of those central truths of the Christian Religion in which Dr. Service most surely believed.

PRAYERS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.

I.

BLESSED and Eternal Lord, whom no man hath seen or can see, but who art nigh unto all that call upon Thee, grant us Thy grace that withdrawing our thoughts from that which is seen and temporal we may enter into fellowship with Thee through Jesus Christ. We bless Thee and praise Thee, Lord and King of all, for the sphere of work and duty in which our common life is passed, for the toil which throughout the week makes rest sweet, and the rest which renews our strength for toil. We bless Thee and praise Thee for the