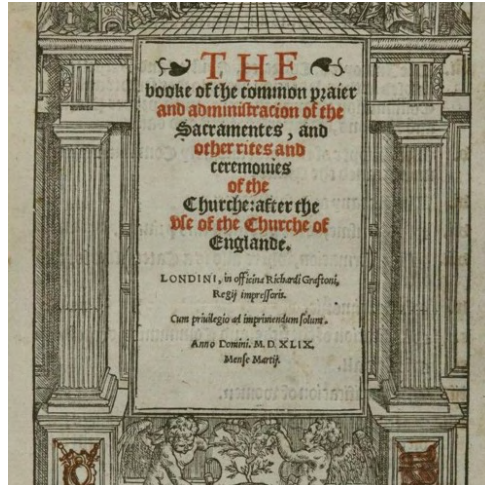


Prayer Book Spirituality What is the Book of Common Prayer Tradition?

I BELIEVE there is no LITURGY in the World, either in ancient or modern language, which breathes more of a solid, scriptural, rational Piety, than the COMMON PRAYER of the CHURCH of ENGLAND. And though the main of it was compiled more than two hundred years ago, yet is the language of it, not only pure, but strong and elegant in the highest degree.
– John Wesley, 1784



It is

- Foundational to Anglicanism



Thomas Cranmer, First Archbishop of the Church of England, 1532-1553

- First issued in 1549, successive 1553, 1552, 1559, 1604, 1634, 1662

- 1789, American Book of Common Prayer, as colonialism ended other countries developed their own BCP's

ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda – the church reformed, always reforming.

- Ancient in it's liturgy

EXCERPT FROM JUSTIN MARTYR, APOSTOLIC FATHER, AD 148:

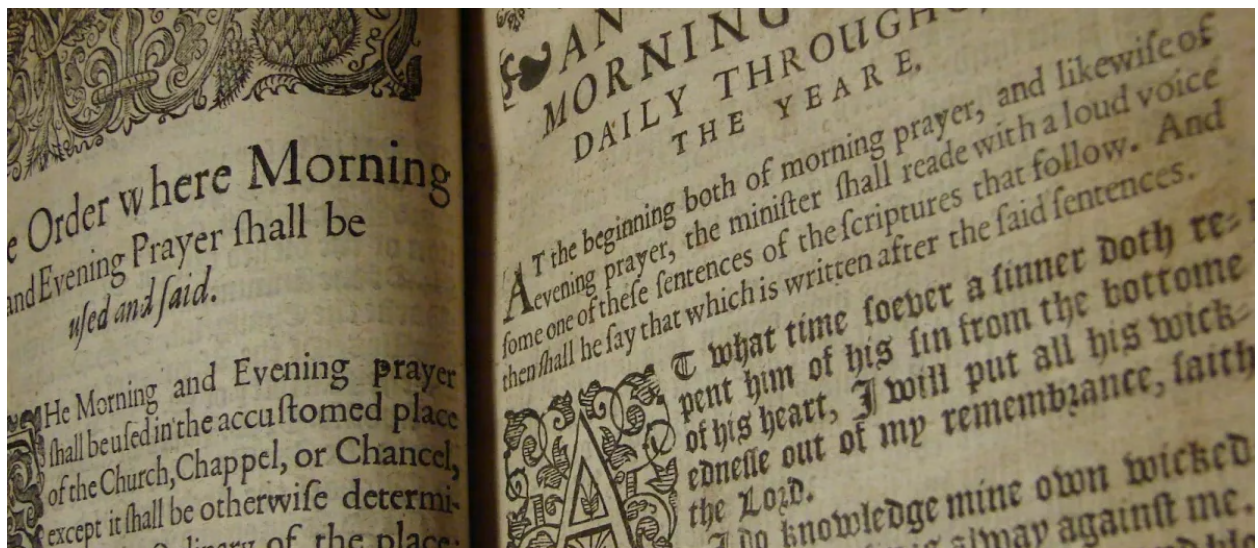
"ALL GATHER TOGETHER, FROM CITY AND COUNTRY TO ONE PLACE...[AND]...THE MEMOIRS OF THE APOSTLES OR THE WRITINGS OF THE PROPHETS ARE READ, THEN THE PRESIDENT VERBALLY INSTRUCTS AND EXHORTS TO THE IMITATION OF THESE GOOD THINGS.... THEN WE RISE AND TOGETHER AND PRAY...AND WHEN OUR PRAYER IS ENDED, BREAD AND WINE AND WATER ARE BROUGHT, AND THE PRESIDENT IN LIKE MANNER OFFERS PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS...AND THE PEOPLE ASSENT, SAYING AMEN; AND THERE IS DISTRIBUTION TO EACH, AND A PARTICIPATION OF THAT OVER WHICH THANKS HAVE BEEN GIVEN, AND TO THOSE WHO ARE ABSENT A PORTION IS SENT BY THE DEACONS."

- Reformational in its worship

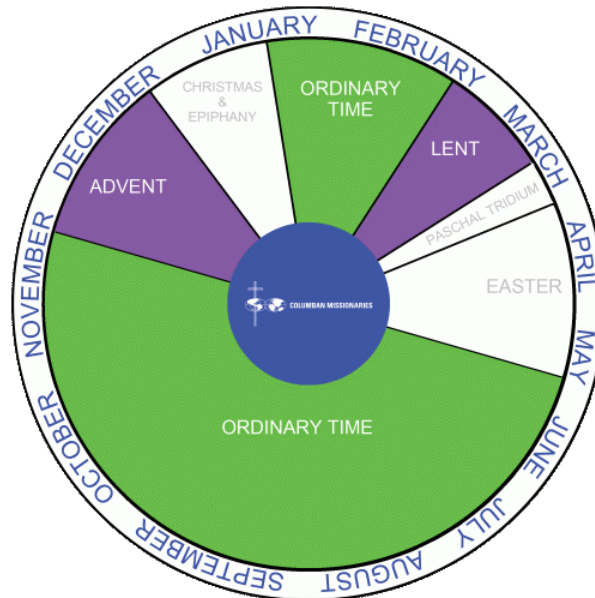
- Biblical

- Imaginative and Literary

- Formational
 - Cranmer's Vision
 - Common Prayer for the people of God
 - Spiritually empowering the lay people
 - Catechizing the lay and clergy
 - Monasticism for everyone
 - A Framework for A Life of Prayer
 - Praise and Lament
 - The Coverdale Psalter



- A Framework for Time



And finally....

“It is a wonderful thing to pray and it is a more wonderful thing to pray together. God loves diversity and God loves unity and when the two merge -unity in diversity and diversity in unity -then something truly miraculous can occur. this is at the heart of common prayer -different people of all types coming together and embracing God.”

—Archbishop Benjamin Tutu

For further reading

The Book of Common Prayer, A Spiritual Treasure Chest by Rev. Canon C.K. Robertson.

A Concise History of the Book of Common Prayer by Gary Nicolosi

The Book of Common Prayer, A Biography by Alan Jacobs