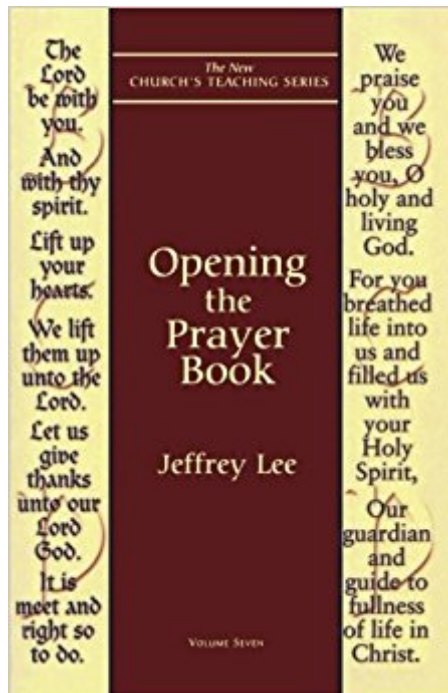




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# Opening The Prayer Book (New Church's Teaching Series)



## Synopsis

What Roger Ferlo did for the Bible in *Opening the Bible*, volume 2 of The New Church's Teaching Series, Jeffrey Lee now does for the prayer book in volume 7 of the series. *Opening the Prayer Book* introduces us to the history and liturgies of The Book of Common Prayer, and helps us understand why the prayer book is such an important aspect of Anglican self-understanding. Lee begins with the fundamental question, "What is common prayer?" He explores some of the ways in which our worship according to The Book of Common Prayer affects who we are as a church, and the way it shapes our lives of faith. In chapter 2 Lee turns to the development of patterns of liturgy from the time of Jesus to the Reformation, tracing changes in the primary liturgies of baptism, eucharist, and daily prayer. The American prayer book is the focus of chapter 3, from the earliest revisions in the new nation through the liturgical scholarship that led to the substantial theological and liturgical changes in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Chapter 4 begins a survey of the pages of the prayer book itself. Lee examines in particular the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter, baptism and eucharist, and the daily office, with a view to understanding the way the parts of the services are rooted in the historical prayers of the church and at the same time reflect the living tradition of Christians today. This theme is further developed in chapter 5, which focuses on the prayer book and our common life. Here Lee discusses questions of how a common prayer book can be responsive to a growing variety of pastoral situations and diverse cultures in a fast-changing world. The final chapter addresses the future of the prayer book within the Anglican Communion, in light of demands for further revision and for greater freedom to adapt the prayer book to local needs and beliefs. As with each book in The New Church's Teaching Series, recommended resources for further reading and questions for discussion are included.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There is much good in the newest volume of the New Church's Teaching Series. . . . Fr. Lee writes a readable history of the genesis of the prayer book. We follow the development of Christian liturgy from its beginnings through the Reformation, with a good summary of American revisions to the prayer book. Readers find insightful pictures of the author's pastoral ministry and experiences with the BCP. (The Living Church)Anticipating a diverse readership, not one composed of â€˜cradle Episcopalians,' this series intends to address those â€˜who want to know what Anglicanism has to offer' (General Editor's Introduction, p. xii). This being so, one is gratified to find in Jeffrey Lee's volume a readable and easily paced exposition of matters both complex and dearâ€¢complex because of the times we live in and dear because common prayer is heartwork for most Anglicans, â€˜cradle' or otherwise. . . .I expect that this book will prove useful to parish study groups as well as to individual readers. The conversations set loose in these groups will serve well the liturgical education of the congregations where this book is considered, and where these â€˜students' pray in common. (William Seth Adams, Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest)

Jeffrey Lee is an Episcopal priest who has served parishes in Wisconsin and Indiana. A speaker, retreat and conference leader with a particular interest in liturgy, he is also active in the renewal of the diaconate, publishing articles and serving on the board of the North American Association for the Diaconate.

I've been ordering a lot of books from lately and I have to say, this book arrived in no time! I was surprised because I actually thought this book was another one that I had ordered a week before (which I still have yet to receive). I decided to get this book on recommendation from my priest. We are starting a forum at my church in the next couple of weeks on the Book of Common Prayer and we are going to work along with this book. I have yet to read this one, but I have read The Anglican Vision by Griffiss which is a part of the same The New Church's Teaching Series. If this book is anything like that one, it should be an enjoyable, devotional read that is not too tedious with the

historical facts but rather a look at spirituality. Instead of focusing on the Who? and How? of the Episcopal Church, these books instead focus on the What? and Why?

A good overview of the Book of Common Prayer - both history and usage. The BCP is the base prayer book for the Episcopal Church, and the Anglican tradition generally. First written in the 1500's, it has evolved over time as the Church has evolved. However, the book itself forms the format and basis for worship for the Anglican churchgoer. Where the Anglican tradition appears to be relatively flexible on dogmatic theology, the Church seems very firm on the form and format of worship as contained in the BCP. Jeffery Lee discusses the controversies and issues that have arisen over the 450 years that the BCP has been in use, and discusses the historical, ancient, elements and traditions contained in the BCP. If you are new to the Episcopal Church or want to understand the Anglican tradition better, this book is critical to understanding the what and why of the BCP and the form of worship.

I thought this to be not a difficult read; nice combo of history, personal experiences, etc. Kept my interest throughout the book. It also filled in "gaps" in my knowledge of the development of the Prayer Book we use.

was a great help for the class on the history of the Book Of Common Prayer from its inception till now, recommend even if you just want to know more about the book we use

Clear, well-written, helpful introduction to the Book of Common Prayer.

This is very informative. If one is a new Episcopalian, this really helps one to understand the liturgy.

Insightful book from the current Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago

Excellent transaction. Great book.

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