The 2018 Book of Common Worship
Coming This Spring!

Newly Revised!
Highlights & ordering information inside
As God continues to reform the church, worship is “always being reformed” according to the Word and Spirit. The 2018 edition of the Book of Common Worship has deep roots—in Scripture, the traditions of the early church, and the convictions of our theological ancestors. At the same time, it has expansive branches—reaching out to embrace varied experiences, diverse cultures, and new generations. Above all, it seeks to point to the glory of God and bear good fruit for the world God loves.

Over the last several years, more than 150 consultants and writers from across the denomination, representing today’s broad, diverse Presbyterian body, edited existing liturgical resources and wrote new material.

Responsive to the many changes in the church and world since the last revision (in 1993), the new edition has been reimagined and redesigned to meet the needs of today’s church. It is more informative, more user-friendly, more inclusive, and more flexible.

With a heritage reaching back to the 1906 Book of Common Worship, this is the sixth official service book to be published for North American Presbyterians and the first of the twenty-first century. This edition of the Book of Common Worship has been updated in keeping with the 2013 hymnal Glory to God and the 2017 revision to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Directory for Worship. It reflects the multicultural nature of the contemporary church, responds to the needs of new worshiping communities, and rejoices in God’s ongoing reform and renewal of the church. Like the Glory to God hymnal, three groups provided funding and leadership for the project together—the Office of Theology and Worship, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

To God be the glory!

The Book of Common Worship includes everything church leaders need for Sunday worship, the Christian year, the sacraments, and pastoral and occasional services, such as ordinations, weddings, wholeness services, and funerals. The 2018 revision adds brief passages of practical commentary before each section and service, as well as more guidance for those who pray spontaneously or compose their own prayers. Continue reading this resource to learn more about new features in the Book of Common Worship!
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Notable Features about the
Book of Common Worship

— **Improved organization**
  Easy navigation allows users to quickly find what they need through an expanded table of contents, sectional tables of contents with page numbers, and two indexes (Scriptural and Topical).

— **Streamlined and simplified services**
  Primary services in each section are streamlined, allowing leaders to appreciate the rhythm, logic, and flow of the order of worship. Each section begins with brief commentary about the meaning and purpose of the services and prayers therein. Additional texts, placed at the end of each section, provide more opportunities for customization.

— **Fresh, evocative materials**
  Theologically sound language written by diverse authors with different contexts in mind represent the fullness of Christ’s church.

— **Singing encouraged**
  Rubrics indicate where certain elements of worship, such as prayers of confession or prayers for illumination, might be replaced by congregational song (with suggested hymn numbers given).

— **More inspiration for creative worship**
  Descriptions of each type of prayer during worship are provided so that those who desire to pray spontaneously or compose their own will be equipped to do so.
What’s New in the 2018 Edition?

— Illustrated liturgical gestures for worship leaders

— Spanish and Korean Resources
  • Common phrases and texts used in worship in English, Spanish, and Korean
  • A full bilingual Service for the Lord’s Day with Spanish and English on facing pages for convenient use
  • Spanish-language services for baptism, new members, ordination/installation, marriage, and funerals

— Music suggestions throughout, using the *Presbyterian Hymnal* (1990) and *Glory to God* (2013)

— Unified ordination services for all leaders

— Three new sections
  • Creation and Ecology
  • Justice and Reconciliation
  • Interfaith Events

— Revised marriage service

— All 150 psalms with psalm prayers arranged for responsive reading, singing, or personal prayer

— Beautiful, original illustrations at the beginning of each section

— Two indexes (Scriptural and Topical)
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*Services marked [E/S] are provided in English and Spanish.*


The *Book of Common Worship, Daily Prayer* contains excerpts from the *Book of Common Worship*, including Daily Prayer, Psalms and Canticles, Ancient and Classic Prayers, and Prayers for Various Occasions. It also provides full texts of the psalms, arranged for chanting or responsive reading, and psalm prayers.
The Psalms and Psalm Prayers

And with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
—Col. 3:16

The 2018 edition of the Book of Common Worship contains all 150 psalms and psalm prayers in an ecumenically shared, inclusive/expansive language version, arranged for responsive reading, singing, or personal prayer. Hymn settings of the psalms in a variety of styles are noted with references to Glory to God and other resources.

Psalm 23  
Tone 6; GTG 473, 801–803; PH 170–175; PS 18–20

R 1The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
2The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
3You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.
4Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
6Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. R

Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd, you give us new birth in the waters of baptism, you anoint us with oil, and you nourish us at your table with heavenly food. In your goodness and mercy, dispel the shadows of evil and death, and lead us along safe paths, that we may rest securely in you and dwell in the house of the Lord now and forever, for your name’s sake.

Psalm 117  
Tone 3; GTG 327, 328; PH 229; PS 117

R 1Praise the Lord, all you nations;
extol God, all you peoples.
2For great is God’s steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. R Hallelujah!

Lord God, you have revealed your kindness to every people and nation. Gather the whole world to yourself, that in all the various languages of the earth one hymn of praise may rise to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Please note: Excerpts from the Book of Common Worship are not shown at actual size.
The 2018 *Book of Common Worship* provides a fully bilingual Service for the Lord’s Day, arranged with Spanish and English on facing pages for convenient use. Spanish-language services for baptism, new members, ordination/installation, marriage, and funerals are also included. Other selected texts in Korean and Spanish will keep leaders and worshipers more mindful of the diversity of languages and cultures in the body of Christ.

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**Bilingual Liturgy and Additional Texts in Spanish and Korean**

*There was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.*

— Rev. 7:9

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**La Liturgia para el Día del Señor**

**Reunión**

*Música instrumental, himnos congregacionales o un tiempo de contemplación y silencio pueden anteceder al culto.*

**Llamamiento a la Adoración**

*Todas las personas pueden ponerse de pie mientras quien oficia y el resto de las personas dicen lo siguiente u otro verso de la Escritura que sea apropiado para la temporada o el día.*

> Vengan a sus puertas, entres en su templo, cantando himnos de alabanza y gratitud; ¡Denle gracias, bendigan su nombre! Porque el Señor es bueno; su amor es eterno y su fidelidad no tiene fin.

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**Service for the Lord’s Day**

**Gathering**

*Instrumental music, congregational song, or contemplative silence may precede the service.*

**Opening Sentences**

*All may stand as presider and people say the following, or another verse from scripture appropriate to the season or day.*

> Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts of God with praise; Give thanks and bless God’s holy name! For the Lord is good; God’s love is eternal, and God’s faithfulness has no end.

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*Please note: Excerpts from the Book of Common Worship are not shown at actual size.*
Unified Ordination and Installation Services

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.
—Eph. 4:4

The 2018 Book of Common Worship includes all services of ordination and installation, which are located in the section Ministry in the Church. One notable feature is a unified ordination liturgy—a single service with options for deacons, elders, and ministers—that better reflects our theology of common ministry in Christ’s name.

Table of Contents from the Ministry in the Church section

Ordination and Installation
  Commentary
  Service of Ordination [and Installation]
  Un culto de ordenación [e instalación]
  Receiving a Candidate under Care
  Recognition of a Certified Christian Educator
  Commissioning a Ruling Elder to Pastoral Service
  Installation of Council Leaders and Staff
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Commissioning to Service
  Commentary
  Services of Commissioning
    Ministry within a Congregation
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    Delegates to a Council
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Conclusion of Service
  Commentary
  Thanksgiving for Faithful Service
  Dissolution of a Pastoral Call
  Recognition of a Pastor’s Retirement
  Additional Texts

Occasions in the Life of a Congregation
  Commentary
  Constituting a Congregation
  Celebrating a Congregational Anniversary
  Uniting Congregations by a Presbytery
  Vacating a Church Building
  Dissolving a Congregation
  Additional Texts
New Section on Creation and Ecology

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now.
—Rom. 8:22

The 2018 revision features language about God’s creation and the care of creation throughout the entire book. In addition, Creation and Ecology, found in the Mission in the World section, includes a Service for the Care of Creation, appropriate for use on Earth Day or other such occasions; a Blessing of the Animals service, appropriate for use on or around St. Francis’s Day; a service for use after a natural disaster; and prayers for victims and their families, first responders and emergency staff in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster. Finally, this section provides suggested scripture readings, hymns and songs, and additional liturgical texts related to creation and ecology.

An excerpt from the “Blessings of the Animals”

The minister or worship leader circulates through the congregation, asks the name of each animal, places her/his hand on the animal’s head (if appropriate), and then blesses the animal:

[Name of animal], you were created by God, and you are loved by God. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other.*

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A new section on justice and reconciliation responds to God’s call for justice, righteousness, and peace, and addresses critical issues in human society. Features include resources for prayer and worship after a violent event and a service for justice and peace.

**An example prayer from the “Prayers after a Violent Event” section**

**In the Hospital**
Merciful God,
your Spirit hovers over us and all our troubled world,
interceding for us with sighs too deep for words.
Help us now.
Chaos and destruction have shattered our lives.
Stay with us as we wait
for news, for healing, for help.
Give us strength and courage to bear the unknown.
Uphold us with your sustaining grace,
and show us your care through neighbors, strangers, and friends.
Sustain all those whom we love
with your healing and your peace.
Guide the hands and strengthen the hearts
of medical professionals as they work to save.
Let those who have been injured know that you are near;
give them rest from pain and fear,
and restore their hope,
we pray in the name of Christ, our light. **Amen.**
New Section for Interreligious Events

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” —Luke 10:29

A new section on interreligious events seeks to promote better understanding, relationships, and cooperation with neighbors of other faiths or no faith. Features include guidelines for community celebrations of thanksgiving or gatherings in times of conflict or crisis.

Celebrations of Thanksgiving

The following suggestions are offered to assist in planning an interreligious or community gathering around Thanksgiving Day. These ideas might also be adapted for ecumenical services, or for community celebrations at times other than Thanksgiving Day. Readers are also advised to consult the general commentary on interreligious events at the beginning of this section (633).

An interreligious thanksgiving celebration might include some of these elements:

- a greeting from one or more of the planners or leaders for the event (particularly from a representative of the group hosting the gathering)
- a call to prayer, opening song, symbol of presence, or practice of gathering from one or more of the groups participating in the event
- the reading of sacred or significant texts from each of the traditions represented, related to themes of gratitude, celebration, or community
- a brief reflection, dialogue, or discussion related to thanksgiving or other important themes of the day
- a time of silence or other open space, allowing for prayer or meditation by all participants
- musical selections (vocal or instrumental) related to prayer or meditation by all participants
- the collection of material goods or financial contributions to benefit a mutually agreed-upon organization
- prayers or appropriate symbolic actions related to thanksgiving from one or more of the participating groups
- blessings or other closing words from one or more of the leaders of the event
- an opportunity for those gathered to greet one another with gestures of peace and goodwill
- a community meal, dance, or other festive activity

Please note: Excerpts from the Book of Common Worship are not shown at actual size.

Mission in the World

Table of Contents for Interreligious Events

Commentary
Celebrations of Thanksgiving
Gatherings in Conflict or Crisis
Additional Texts
Responding to the movement for marriage equality and changes to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the 2018 *Book of Common Worship* provides a carefully revised marriage service, inclusive of all couples. The marriage section also contains prayers and other resources for celebrating an engagement, reaffirming marriage vows, or acknowledging the end of a marriage.

**An example greeting from the Service of Marriage**

**Greeting**

*The presider says:*

Friends,
we gather to celebrate the marriage of N. and N.,
to witness their vows,
pledge our support,
and seek God’s blessing upon them.

From the beginning,
God created us for relationship
and kept covenant with us.
Jesus gave himself in love
and taught us to continually forgive.
And the Holy Spirit, given in baptism,
renews God’s grace within us day by day,
enabling us to grow in faith, in hope, and in love.

Those who marry are called to a way of life
marked by grace, fidelity, and mutual respect,
as they bear one another’s burdens
and share one another’s joys.

As N. and N. make their promises today,
families are joined,
friendships are strengthened,
and a new community of love is formed.

Let us surround N. and N. with our affection and prayer,
giving thanks for their love for one another
and for all the ways
that God’s love is made manifest in our lives.
Illustrated Liturgical Gestures and Common Phrases in English, Spanish, and Korean

Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
—Rom. 12:1

Illustrations of liturgical gestures and common liturgical phrases in English, Spanish, and Korean are included in the Book of Common Worship to enable cross-cultural worship. The most common languages besides English in the PC(USA) today are Spanish and Korean. More than twenty-five common phrases used in worship are placed side by side in English, Spanish, and Korean for worship leaders to use.

Examples include

**Eucharist**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
El Señor esté con ustedes. Y también contigo.
주님께서 여러분과 함께 하시기를.
Ju-nim-kke-seo yeo-reo-bun-gwa ham-kke ha-si-reul.
인도자님과도 함께 하시기를.
In-do-ja-nim-gwa-do ham-kke ha-si-gi-leul.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.
Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios. Dar gracias y alabanzas es digno y justo.
주 우리 하나님께 감사 드립니다.
우리가 주님께 감사와 찬양을 드리는 것이 마땅합니다.

*Please note: Excerpts from the Book of Common Worship are not shown at actual size.*
How to Order
Pricing Information:
Book of Common Worship | 9780664503185 | $50.00
Book of Common Worship, Pastoral Edition | 9780664503512 | $35.00
Book of Common Worship, Daily Prayer | 9780664503529 | $35.00

Want to order all three editions of the Book of Common Worship?
Order the Book of Common Worship set by April 2, 2018, and get all three editions for $100!*

Book of Common Worship Set | 9780664264451 | $100.00

*The Book of Common Worship set will mail in May 2018.

Additional Editions

Book of Common Worship, Pastoral Edition
9780664503512 | Leatherette | 4" x 7.5" | $35.00 | May 2018

The Book of Common Worship, Pastoral Edition is an indispensable resource for pastors, chaplains, and others who lead worship. Church leaders will find services and prayers for use at baptisms, ordinations, weddings, house blessings, hospital visits, wholeness services, funerals, and more. Key features of the new pastoral edition include updates and revisions to the ordination, marriage, wholeness, and funeral services.

Book of Common Worship, Daily Prayer
9780664503529 | Leatherette | 4" x 7.5" | $35.00 | May 2018

The Book of Common Worship, Daily Prayer provides a basic pattern of prayer that can be led by any member of the church and used for personal reflection, household worship, small group gatherings, weekday services, or church meetings and retreats. It includes simple services for daily prayer, a complete psalter as well as other biblical songs and ancient hymns, a treasury of prayers for various occasions in human life, and selected readings from the Revised Common Lectionary (Sunday and daily readings) and the two-year daily lectionary (expanded).

eBooks
All three editions will be available as eBooks Spring 2018 via Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Christian Books, Apple, and Google Books.

Book of Common Worship, Online Edition
Coming Fall 2018!
More details coming soon.

Visit www.pcusastore.com or call 1-800-533-4371 to place your order today!