PREACHING RESOURCE GUIDE

BOOKS FOR PREACHING, WORSHIP, & SPECIAL OCCASIONS

For preaching resources for Advent and Lent, check out our seasonal resource guides. If you are viewing this on your computer or other device, click on any title or cover to be taken to the product page on PC(USA) Store. Also, look for the dark blue blocks to download resource samples throughout. You can also email or print this to use for personal research or with committees.

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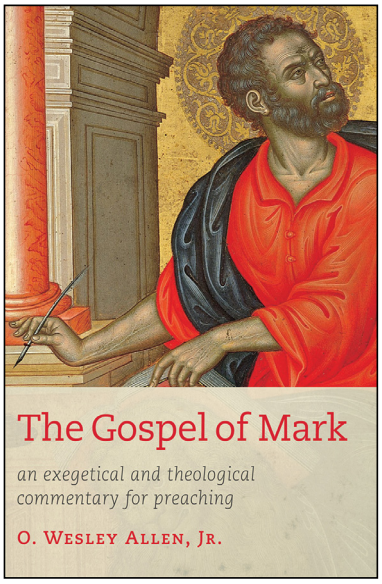

The Gospel of Mark

An Exegetical and Theological Commentary for Preaching

ISBN: 9780664265823

~~$60.00~~ $39.00

This critical preaching commentary serves as a single, reliable resource for engaging the Gospel of Mark. This comprehensive commentary on the Gospel of Mark brings together rigorous exegesis and practical homiletical insight, drawing on a literary approach that interprets Mark as a unified narrative. Each passage receives detailed treatment, including critical notes on the Greek text, literary analysis, and theological and homiletical considerations, making this commentary both a critical study companion and a practical guide for weekly sermon preparation.

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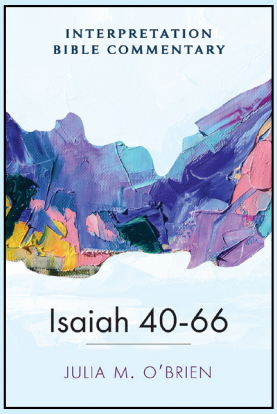

New in the Interpretation Bible Commentary Series

Isaiah 40-66

Julia M. O'Brien

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In this commentary for preachers, teachers, and students, Julia O'Brien combines historical and literary analysis with theological insight to explore Isaiah 40–66 and its relevance to contemporary challenges, including racial injustice, political polarization, and climate crisis.

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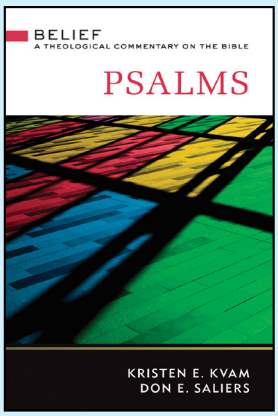

New in the Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible Series

Psalms

Kristen E. Kvam and Don E. Saliers

ISBN: 9780664233273

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In this theological commentary for pastors, teachers, worship leaders, and students, Kristen Kvam and Don Saliers explore the psalms as lyrical theology, drawing on traditions of praise, lament, and music to enrich contemporary preaching, worship, prayer, and ministry.

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THE INTERPRETATION BIBLE COMMENTARY

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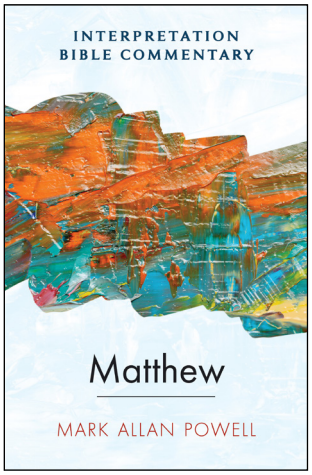
—Brian K. Blount, General Editor of the Interpretation Bible Commentary series, and President Emeritus, Union Presbyterian Seminary



Matthew

Mark Allan Powell
ISBN: 9780664264291

~~$45.00~~ $29.25

"For anyone who wants to understand the Gospel of Matthew, this should be their first commentary."

—R. Alan Culpepper
Review in *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*

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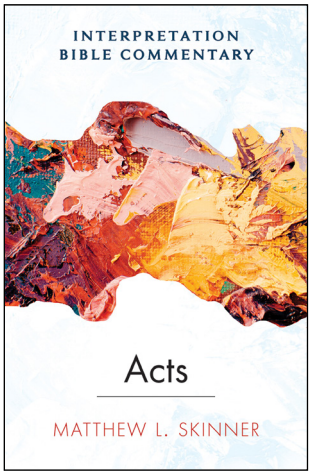

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Assistant Professor of New Testament, Brite Divinity School

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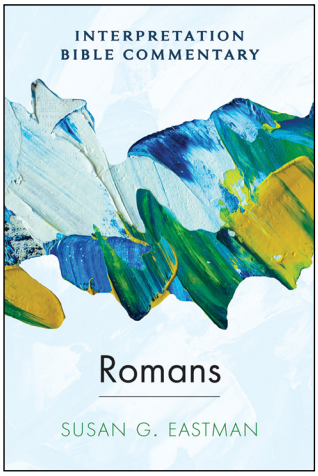

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Susan G. Eastman
ISBN: 9780664264338

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"In this very readable commentary on Romans, Susan Eastman has produced a pitch-perfect voicing of the main goal of the Interpretation series: to express the best, most exacting biblical scholarship in ways that energize the work of preachers and teachers."

—Thomas G. Long
Bandy Professor Emeritus of Preaching, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

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Mark, by Raquel S. Lettsome
Exodus, by Safwat Marzouk
John, by Frances Taylor Gench
Daniel, by Brennan Breed
Esther, by Kyong-Jin Lee
1 Corinthians, by Emerson B. Powery

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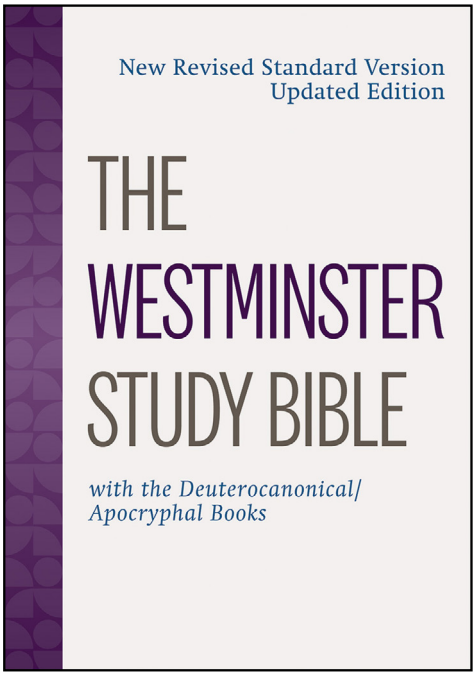
"This study Bible is a treasure. The materials that have been strategically compiled and expertly drafted to support text engagement are wonderful resources for the casual reader, the serious student, and the mature scholar. In my future study and work, this will be the English Bible I pull from the shelf and place on my desk. And when students, parishioners, colleagues, and friends seek a recommendation, this is the Bible to which I will refer them."

—Brian K. Blount, President Emeritus of Union Presbyterian Seminary

"I am excited to endorse *The Westminster Study Bible* (WSB) as a preacher and teacher and one who loves to study the Bible. The WSB challenges one to go deeper. It also provides a fresh perspective of the ancient text through resources that illustrate how the Bible provides context and speaks to the social, political, and personal issues that people deal with in everyday life. The WSB is just what I needed in this season of life and ministry."

—Cynthia L. Hale, Senior Pastor, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, Georgia



The Westminster Study Bible

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition with the Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal Books

Emerson B. Powery, Stacy Davis, Mary F. Foskett, & Brent A. Strawn, general editors

ISBN: 9780664266974

~~$55.00~~ $35.75 *You save 35% every day at PC(USA) Store!*

Perfect for sermon preparation and meaningful Bible study, *The Westminster Study Bible* (WSB) explores the ancient world of the Bible while navigating its traditional and ongoing interpretations and Scripture's relevance for today. With comprehensive study notes, thematic sidebars, and insightful essays, the WSB embraces the diverse perspectives of its readership and acknowledges the evolving cultural and social impacts of biblical texts.

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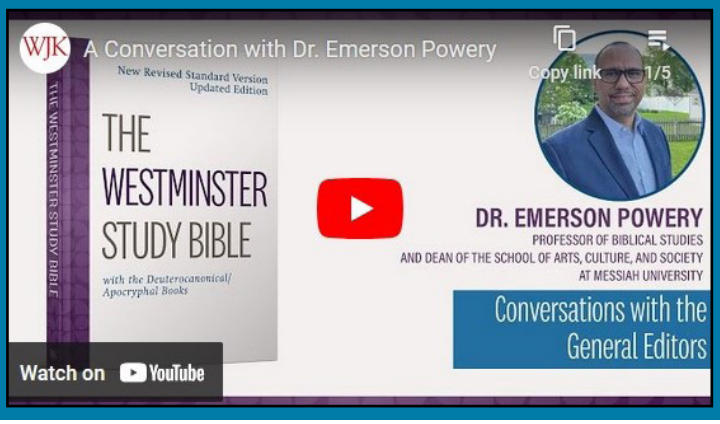

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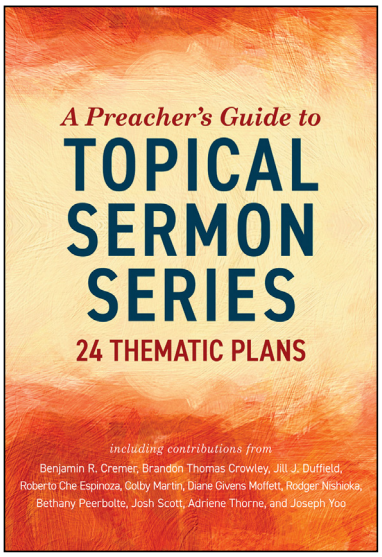

A Preacher's Guide to Topical Sermon Series

24 Thematic Plans

ISBN: 9780664269296

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Perfect for pastors and occasional preachers, this book includes twenty-four creative, ready-to-use sermon series ideas from preachers across diverse traditions. With thoughtful attention paid to constructing each topical series, preachers will save much-needed time as they do their weekly work for sermon preparation. Each series includes focus Scriptures and themes for each week, sermon starters, and suggestions for extending the theme into worship, education, and outreach. Covering a wide range of themes—technology, stewardship, justice, misconceptions of hell, and more—this resource equips pastors to preach with clarity and relevance all year long.

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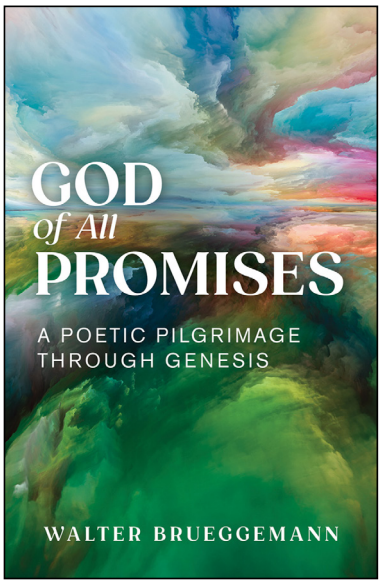

God of All Promises

A Poetic Pilgrimage through Genesis

Walter Brueggemann

ISBN: 9780664269388

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Walter Brueggemann's final work takes readers on a poetic journey through Genesis, bringing new hope, deep reflection, and discovery of all that God promises. Beginning with a scriptural epigraph and ending in prayer, every entry invites deeper engagement with the living Word, gleaning a renewed sense of God's enduring promises. Whether you're a pastor, seeker, or lifelong learner, *God of All Promises* is a spiritual companion that offers a rich, imaginative resource for individual devotion, group study, or communal worship.

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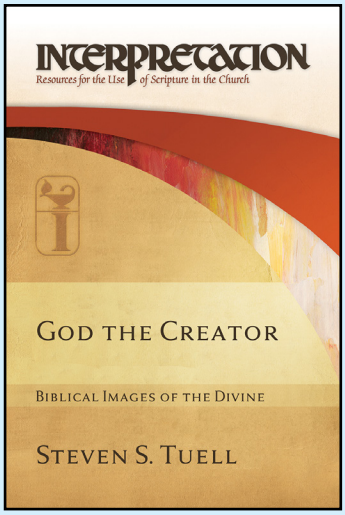

New in the Interpretation: Resources for the Use of Scripture in the Church Series

God the Creator: Biblical Images of the Divine

Steven S. Tuell

ISBN: 9780664262044

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"Steven Tuell has given us exactly what's needed: an expert summary written for nonexperts. Thorough, accessible, and packed with new insight, *God the Creator* is a gift for informed preachers and for biblically literate Christians." —Ron Cole-Turner, H. Parker Sharp Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

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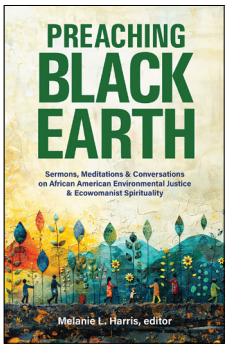

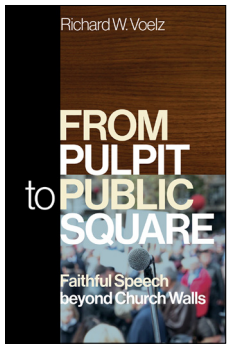

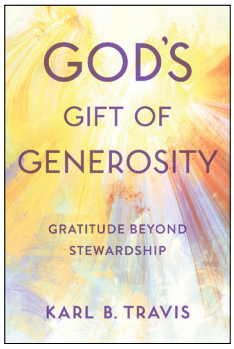

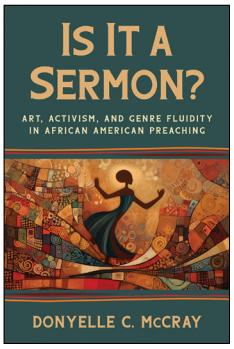

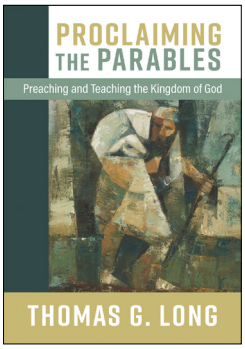

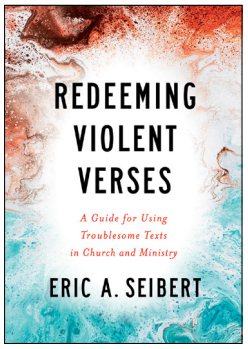

Preaching Black Earth *Sermons, Meditations, and Conversations on African American Environmental Justice and Ecowomanist Spirituality*	**From Pulpit to Public Square** *Faithful Speech beyond Church Walls*	**God's Gift of Generosity** *Gratitude beyond Stewardship*	**Is It a Sermon?** *Art, Activism, and Genre Fluidity in African American Preaching*	**Proclaiming the Parables** *Preaching and Teaching the Kingdom of God*	**Redeeming Violent Verses** *A Guide for Using Troublesome Texts in Church and Ministry*
Melanie L. Harris, ed.	Richard W. Voelz	Karl B. Travis	Donyelle C. McCray	Thomas G. Long	Eric A. Seibert
~~$30.00~~ $19.50	~~$28.00~~ $18.20	~~$28.00~~ $18.20	~~$28.00~~ $18.20	~~$50.00~~ $32.50	~~$25.00~~ $16.25
Preaching Black Earth is a groundbreaking collection of sermons, meditations, poems, and interviews that illuminates the powerful intersections of environmental justice, racial justice, and faith. With contributions from Bible scholars, pastors, ecowomanist thinkers, and political activists, this volume offers a profound exploration of how Black and ally communities can craft new theologies to confront the urgent challenges of climate change.	From the crisis of protests to community events, interactions with media, fundraising, and the many places in between, this guide empowers you to connect with diverse audiences and speak with purpose, clarity, and conviction. It offers bold strategies for speaking in ways that make a difference. Through insightful reflections, practical exercises, and thought-provoking questions, Richard Voelz helps you discern your role, set clear goals, and deliver impactful messages in a wide variety of non-ministerial settings.	Tailored specifically for pastors and lay leaders navigating the delicate task of stewardship, this insightful book transcends the "how" of giving to explore the "why" behind our acts of generosity. With a blend of scholarly insight, heartfelt conviction, and practical advice, this book serves as a beacon of wisdom and encouragement for those seeking to cultivate a spirit of generosity in their congregations. Access a comprehensive group discussion and planning guide at www.wjkbooks.com/Generosity.	Donyelle McCray explores how preaching merges with prayer, song, performance, and activism. By seeing the possibilities that emerge when we play at the shoreline, McCray seeks to discover what we might learn from key figures like Mahalia Jackson, Harriet Powers, Rosie Lee Tomkins, Thea Bowman, Howard Thurman, and Toni Morrison. These influential people are examined as artists, activists, and proclaimers. McCray shines a light on their work and points out how they reform preacherly identities and refuse traditional patterns of holding authority.	In *Proclaiming the Parables*, Thomas G. Long provides an emphasis on the parables' theological impact as pointers to the kingdom of God. This book offers two chapters on each Synoptic Gospel—one exploring the overall message and the role of its parables, and the other providing detailed exegetical and homiletical commentary. Preachers who consult this volume will be informed about each major parable, guided through the controversies regarding interpretation, and stimulated to preach on the parable in fresh, faithful, and creative ways.	In *Redeeming Violent Verses*, Eric Seibert focuses on a wide range of practical ways to use violent biblical texts responsibly in the church and beyond. With chapters devoted to using violent verses when preaching sermons, teaching Sunday school, and leading worship, this book is filled with guidelines and specific practices designed to help ministers use violent verses responsibly. Additional digital resources for use with adult groups and young children are available for free.
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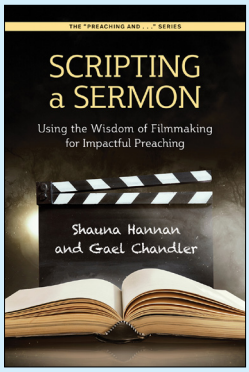

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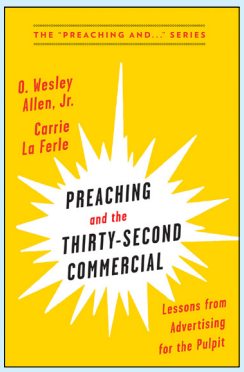

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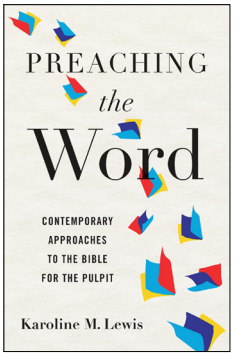

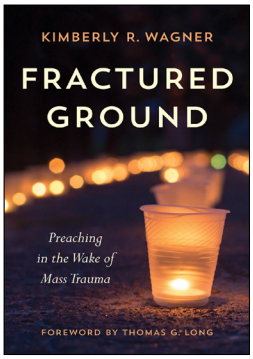

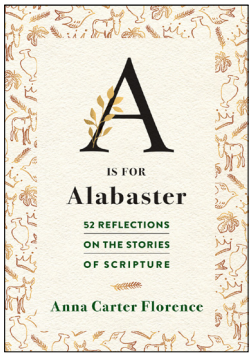

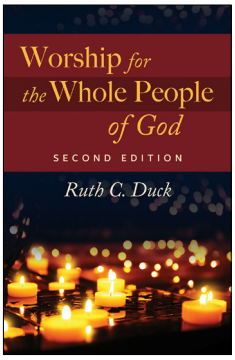

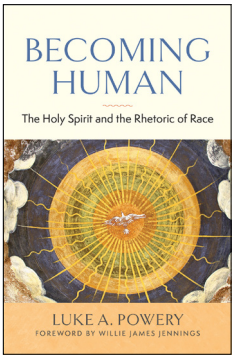

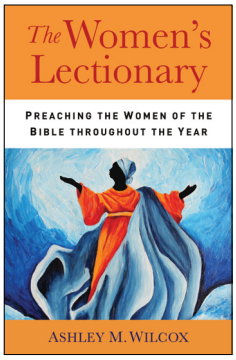

Preaching the Word *Contemporary Approaches to the Bible for the Pulpit*	**Fractured Ground** *Preaching in the Wake of Mass Trauma*	**A Is for Alabaster** *52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture*	**Worship for the Whole People of God, Second Edition**	**Becoming Human** *The Holy Spirit and the Rhetoric of Race*	**The Women's Lectionary** *Preaching the Women of the Bible throughout the Year*
Karoline M. Lewis	Kimberly R. Wagner	Anna Carter Florence	Ruth C. Duck	Luke A. Powery	Ashley M. Wilcox
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The average pastor doesn't have time to keep up with the changes in biblical studies and, as a result, often defaults to interpretive methods learned in seminary years. *Preaching the Word* addresses those needs by surveying recent developments in biblical studies with an eye to applying them in preaching the Gospel of John. Karoline Lewis lays out these recent interpretive tools and methods, demonstrating their application to preaching using specific passages in the Fourth Gospel.	Trauma from violence, natural disasters, and disease has become all too familiar in the American experience, inevitably raising questions about where God is to be found in the midst of such tragedies. Drawing from trauma studies, eschatological theologies, Scripture, and lament, Wagner encourages narratively fractured sermons that affirm God's enduring presence and promise even in the face of immense brokenness.	From courageous Abigail to Zelophehad's daughters, and from an alabaster jar of ointment to Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree, beloved preacher and writer Anna Carter Florence takes readers on an enchanting tour of the Old and New Testaments with reflections that reveal ancient wisdom and spark imagination anew. In addition to group discussion guides available in the book, you can also download a free book club guide and a reading guide for preachers.	Providing theological foundations for worship, this book explores the ways Christians have adapted worship to various cultures to help them communicate the gospel to others. This new edition updates and expands the recommended resources and worship trends, enhances the section on multicultural worship, and revises marriage information based on cultural and denominational changes.	Luke Powery tells us that the church's story says that the diversity of human bodies is one of the gifts of the Spirit. That story's decisive chapter comes at Pentecost, when the Spirit embraces all bodies, all flesh, all tongues. In this book, Powery urges the church to embrace the inclusive story of Pentecost, celebrating the diversity of human bodies as gifts of the Spirit. He explores how preaching can better exemplify the various gifts God bestows on the church, fostering a worship and ministry that embodies this inclusive narrative.	Focusing on passages about women in the Bible and feminine imagery of God, *The Women's Lectionary* reimagines the liturgical calendar of preaching for one year. These women are daughters and mothers, strong leaders and evil queens, disciples and troublemakers. Discover this must-have lectionary, which features more than one hundred commentary essays with an Old and New Testament passage for each Sunday of the year and special holy days.
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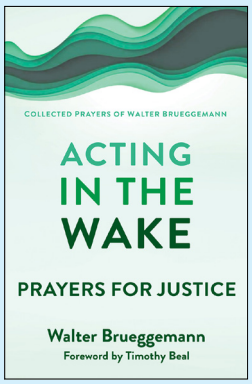

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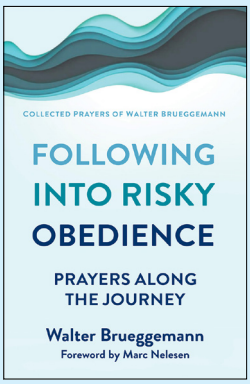

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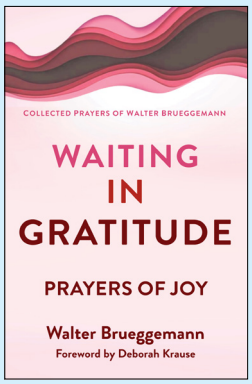

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These volumes offer complete liturgies for all worshiping occasions, from the call to worship to the closing charge, with prayers and litanies for every need in between. A "Making Connections" essay precedes each liturgical season's resources, providing context for worship within the themes and purpose of the season.

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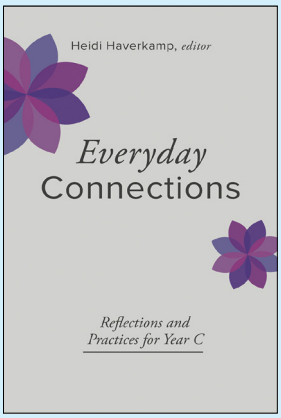

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Reflections and Practices

Edited by Heidi Haverkamp

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LITURGIES AND HYMNS

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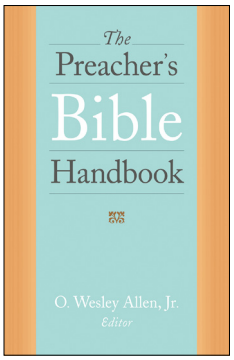

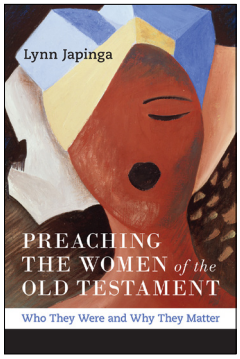

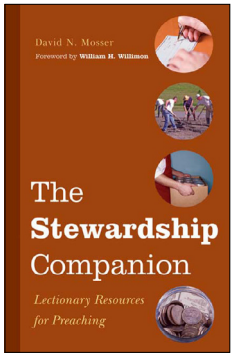

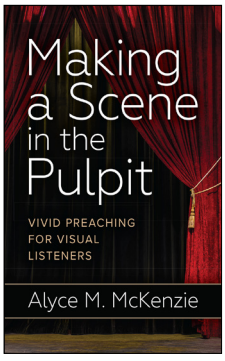

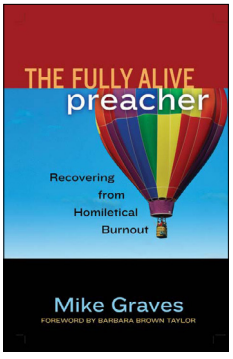

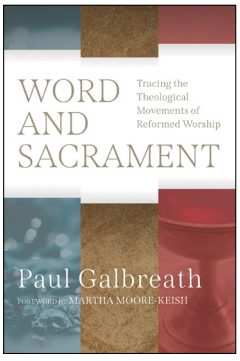

The Preacher's Bible Handbook	Preaching the Women of the Old Testament *Who They Were and Why They Matter*	The Stewardship Companion *Lectionary Resources for Preaching*	Making a Scene in the Pulpit *Vivid Preaching for Visual Listeners*	The Fully Alive Preacher *Recovering from Homiletical Burnout*	Word and Sacrament *Tracing the Theological Movements of Reformed Worship*
O. Wesley Allen, Jr.	Lynn Japinga	David N. Mosser	Alyce M. McKenzie	Mike Graves	Paul Galbreath
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When it comes to understanding a passage in the Bible, context is everything. What historical events surround a book's composition? What larger literary unit is a given passage part of? If we don't know the answer to questions like these, we are ill-prepared to speak to–and especially preach about–a passage's meaning. *The Preacher's Bible Handbook* meets this need. Essays on each of the biblical books introduce the most relevant historical, literary, and theological facts about the book.	In *Preaching the Women of the Old Testament*, Lynn Japinga interprets the stories of over forty fierce, faithful, and strong women featured in the Old Testament. Along with providing an interpretation, Japinga demonstrates how the character's story has been read in Christian tradition and offers sermon ideas that connect contemporary issues to each story. This book is ideal for pastors who want to know more about the many women of the Old Testament and learn how to better incorporate them into their sermons.	Every week churches must address issues related to stewardship. With deep pastoral sensitivities and solid biblical knowledge, veteran pastor and author David Mosser draws one Scripture passage from each week in the three- year lectionary cycle to provide a brief reflection on how that passage can be used to teach and preach about stewardship. The reflections offered here address a variety of issues related to stewardship, making this book an essential resource for all pastors, worship leaders, and stewardship committees.	Alyce McKenzie harnesses the element of drama and the human fascination with scenes to offer ministers a modern means of sermon development and delivery. Whether from Scripture or contemporary life, these scenes point toward the larger story of God's relationship with humankind. This process unifies the process of preaching, from the preacher's daily life observations to interpretation of scenes from Scripture, to sermon shaping, sequencing, and delivery.	Mike Graves begins this book with the question "If preaching is intended to enliven the church, why is it killing so many ministers?" His answer? Because preaching has become divorced from the vitality and diversity of the preacher's daily life. He invites preachers to discover how preaching can be renewing rather than draining.	Since the time of John Calvin, Reformed theology has centered Word and sacrament as core to Christian identity. Yet Scripture, baptism, and the Lord's Supper have been understood and practiced in evolving ways. Exploring key liturgies, confessions, worship directories, and theological movements to trace shared themes and shifts shaped by changing contexts, *Word and Sacrament* offers a roadmap for worship that speaks to today's urgent concerns and provides practical guidance for congregational renewal.
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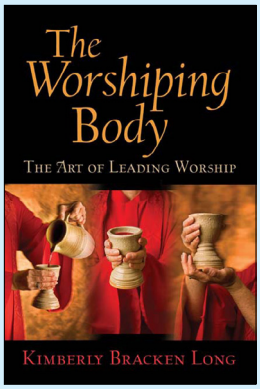

The Worshiping Body

The Art of Leading Worship

Kimberly Bracken Long

ISBN: 9780664233112

~~$28.00~~ $18.20

Kimberly Bracken Long, by focusing on what presiders do with their bodies, eyes, ears, lips, hands, feet, and heart, describes an attitude and style of worship leadership that is both firmly rooted and blessedly free. A wonderful offering for all worship presiders, *The Worshiping Body* is essential reading for anyone interested in how their presence and movement during worship make a difference.

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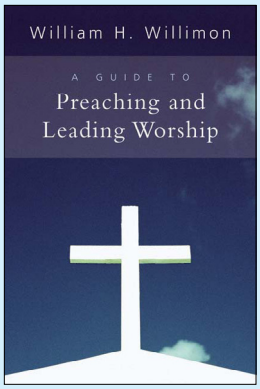

A Guide to Preaching and Leading Worship

William H. Willimon

ISBN: 9780664232573

~~$24.00~~ $15.60

William Willimon, one of the world's most admired preachers, offers his practical and sage advice for some of the most basic tasks of ministry: preparing, delivering, and evaluating sermons; planning, leading, and evaluating worship services; offering public prayers; and celebrating baptism and the Lord's Supper. In addition, Willimon provides creative suggestions for involving laity in worship.

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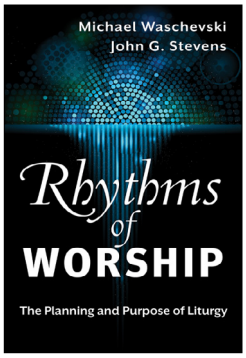
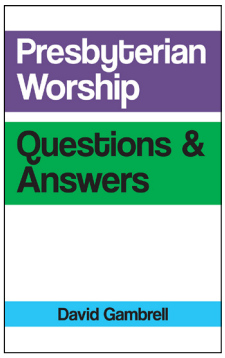
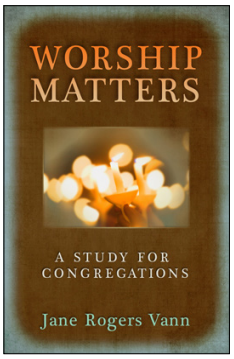
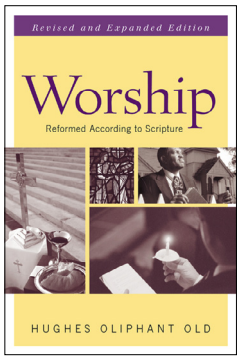
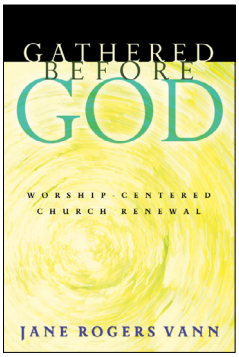
WORSHIP BOOKS FOR GROUP STUDY

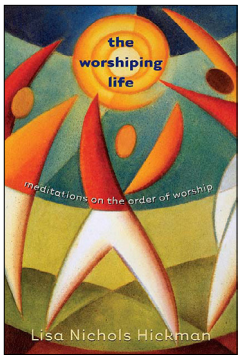












Rhythms of Worship *The Planning and Purpose of Liturgy*	**Presbyterian Worship Questions and Answers**	**Worship Matters** *A Study for Congregations*	**Worship, Revised and Expanded Edition** *Reformed according to Scripture*	**Gathered before God** *Worship-Centered Church Renewal*	**The Worshiping Life** *Meditations on the Order of Worship*
John G. Stevens & Michael Waschevski	David Gambrell	Jane Rogers Vann	Hughes Oliphant Old	Jane Rogers Vann	Lisa Nichols Hickman
~~$18.00~~ $11.70	~~$18.00~~ $11.70	~~$26.00~~ $16.90	~~$35.00~~ $22.75	~~$26.00~~ $16.90	~~$25.00~~ $16.25
In clear, everyday language, Waschevski and Stevens describe why Protestants worship. The authors explore the different elements of the worship service, the feasts and festivals of the liturgical year, and music and arts in worship. Discussion questions at the end of each chapter invite discussion in local congregations. This book will be a valuable resource for pastors, worship committees, members, and all others who engage in worship planning and leadership.	This book draws on the author's decade of experience in the PC(USA)'s Office of Theology and Worship to provide accessible answers to the questions frequently asked about Presbyterian worship, along with a few we ought to ask more frequently. From the philosophical—What is worship and what does it have to do with real life?—to the practical—Why is there a pink candle and when do we light it?—readers will appreciate the meaning and mystery of worship in the Reformed tradition.	Sunday worship is the central act of the Christian faith, yet few people truly understand what is happening during the service, and why, and how. Jane Rogers Vann examines how we can eliminate the barrier between the preacher and the people in the pew, and offers practical advice directed not just toward church leaders but to worship committees and church members--all who are yearning to be fully engaged in worship.	Hughes Oliphant Old masterfully summarizes the worship of Israel and the early church and traces the development of worship through the period of the Reformation. He provides a sterling historical study that will be highly useful for pastors and church study groups as well as for scholars and students interested in Reformed worship. An extensive bibliography of resources for the study of Reformed worship adds to the value of this book.	In *Gathered before God*, Jane Rogers Vann studies ten vibrant small, medium, and large churches. Her findings, she argues, show that worship is the most important thing churches do and is crucial to the renewal of congregational life. This book offers resources for pastors, worship leaders, and Christian educators to reflect on their worship, leading to an openness to change and processes to help church leaders support each other during the periods of reform and renewal.	In this unique and engaging book of meditations, pastor Lisa Nichols Hickman delves into the life of worship, seeking to reveal its rhythms and order. There are twenty chapters, each a meditation on an element of worship, reflecting on how that particular element plays out not only in a service of worship but, more importantly, in everyday life.
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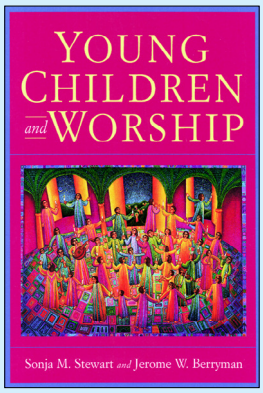
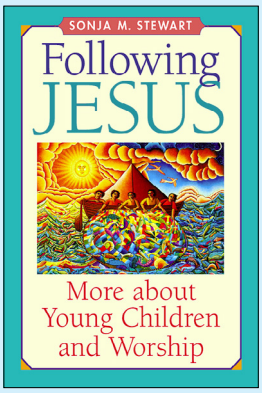
FOR LEADERS AND EDUCATORS

These books provide programs and activities for leaders, educators, and families to be able to help children learn about and be actively involved in worship. Click on each cover to learn more and find Google previews on the product page.







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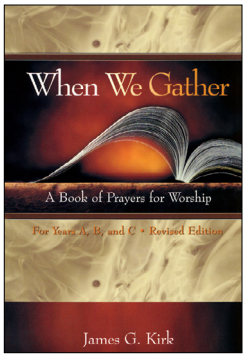
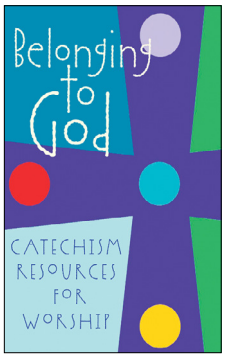
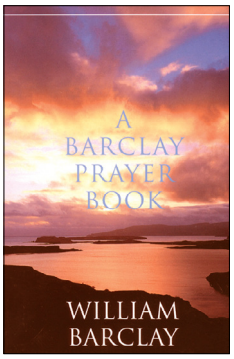
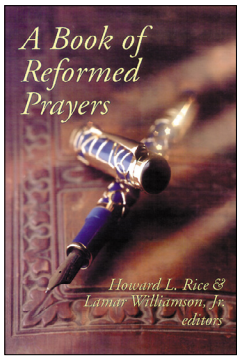
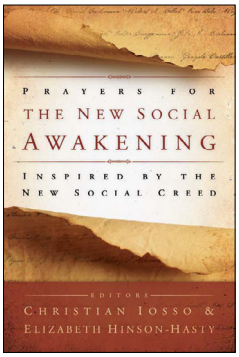
PRAYERS FOR WORSHIP

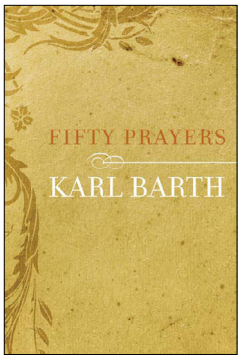












When We Gather, Revised Edition *A Book of Prayers for Worship*	**Belonging to God** *Catechism Resources for Worship*	**A Barclay Prayer Book**	**A Book of Reformed Prayers**	**Prayers for the New Social Awakening** *Inspired by the New Social Creed*	**Fifty Prayers**
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~~$38.00~~ $24.70	~~$32.00~~ $20.80	~~$27.00~~ $17.55	~~$38.00~~ $24.70	~~$28.00~~ $18.20	~~$17.00~~ $11.05
For every Sunday in the church year, James Kirk provides contemporary, theologically solid prayers and other elements for use in worship. Included are prayers of praise and adoration, confession and pardon, dedication, thanksgiving and petition, as well as concise comments on the lectionary Scripture readings for each Sunday. Now expanded and updated to conform to the Revised Common Lectionary, this revised edition covers all of the Sundays in lectionary cycles A, B, and C.	Using the language of the catechisms in worship makes explicit the faith commitments of the church. *Belonging to God: Catechism Resources for Worship* is designed to bring the language, and thus the teaching of the church, into the worship of God's people. It provides prayers, calls to worship, baptismal and confirmation resources, and more, as well as suggestions for how to incorporate the catechisms.	Some of William Barclay's most beloved prayers and meditations have been brought together in this collection. Fresh and meaningful as ever, these prayers invite us to experience the wellspring of spirituality that nourished this timeless theologian's creativity. Arranged both topically and chronologically through the church year, *A Barclay Prayer Book* is perfect for personal devotional study and a useful resource for worship leaders.	Prayer has undergirded the achievements, sacrifices, and faithfulness of the Reformed tradition since its beginning. Howard Rice and Lamar Williamson have gathered more than 200 prayers from the Reformed tradition, organizing the prayers chronologically by century. They provide historical information and biographies of each author to enhance readers' understanding of each prayer within its own context.	In honor of the one-hundredth anniversary of the 1908 Social Creed and the development of a Social Creed for the twenty-first century, Chris Iosso and Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty have compiled new prayers from well-known church and community leaders. This seminal volume includes the words from the new Social Creed and prayers reflecting social justice themes referenced in the creed, including poverty, economic justice, and care for the environment.	This collection for the first time makes Karl Barth's pastoral prayers available to an English-speaking audience, offering a fresh perspective on how the great Swiss theologian understood this central practice of Christian life. The prayers are organized according to seasons of the liturgical year, making them ideal for both group use and individual reflection.
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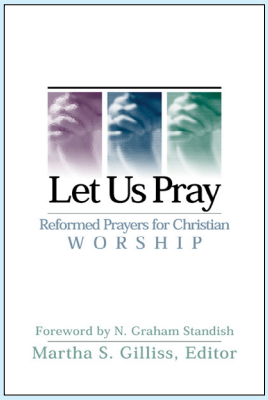

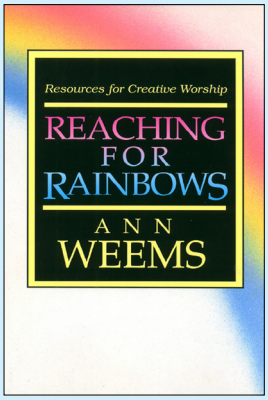

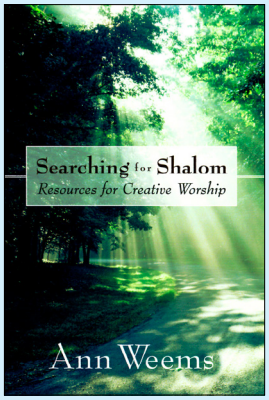

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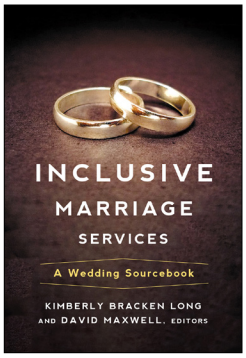

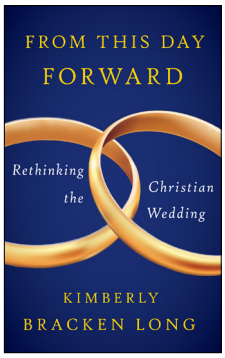

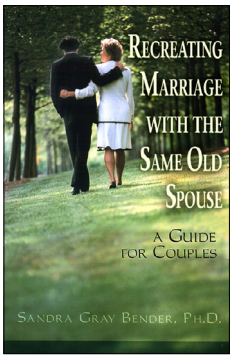

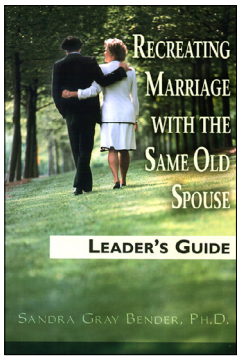

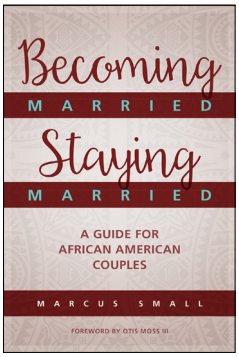

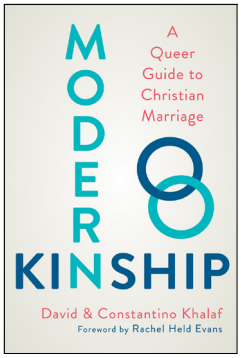

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The liturgies in *Inclusive Marriage Services* echo historic wedding rites yet offer language that can be used by all couples. This sourcebook provides marriage liturgies with updated and gender-neutral language that are adaptable for a variety of couples and situations. Also included are prayers for events related to weddings such as rehearsal dinners, receptions, and anniversaries, as well as guidance for both couples and clergy involved in planning services. Also available in paperback.	This book offers a foundational understanding of marriage for today's North American church. Kimberly Bracken Long suggests that the church consider its involvement in weddings and offers a distinctively Christian understanding of marriage. She provides practical suggestions for music and Scripture during wedding services as well as guidance on how to respond faithfully to those who are divorced or divorcing.	Drawing on years of experience counseling couples and groups, Sandra Bender contends that married people need intentional, focused direction to create the marriage they want. *Recreating Marriage with the Same Old Spouse* educates couples in the skills of being married. Beginning with a discussion of the Myers-Briggs personality framework, Bender covers topics like identity, intimacy, insecurity, and reflective listening.	Drawing on years of experience counseling couples and groups, Sandra Bender contends that married people need intentional, focused direction to create the marriage they want. In this companion to the Couple's Guide, Bender provides clear advice for group leaders on helping married couples improve their marriage skills. Bender advises leaders on how to prepare for each session, present the material to couples, and answer questions.	In this book, couples will reflect on current realities particular to African American couples. They will discover nine key principles required for healthy marriages, including self-awareness, flexibility, and forgiveness. Questions for discussion and reflection are included for each chapter. This insightful resource can be used at various stages of their relationship, but it is especially helpful to engaged and newly married couples. Pastors may also choose to use this book as a discussion starter for premarital or post-marital counseling.	Part personal reflection, part commentary, and full of practical advice, *Modern Kinship* explores the biblical concept of kinship from a twenty-first-century perspective. This important resource tackles subjects such as dating outside of smartphone apps, overcoming church and family issues, meeting your partner's parents, deciding when and how to have children, and finding your mission as a couple. *Modern Kinship* encourages queer Christian couples to build God-centered partnerships of trust and mutuality.
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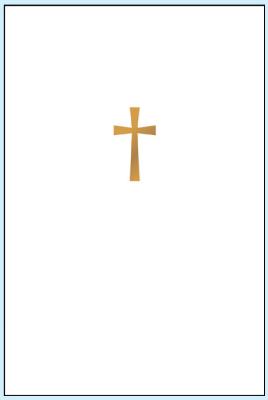

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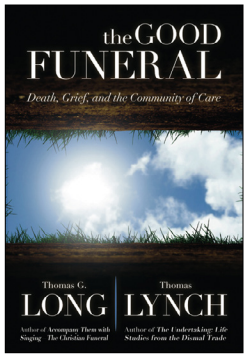

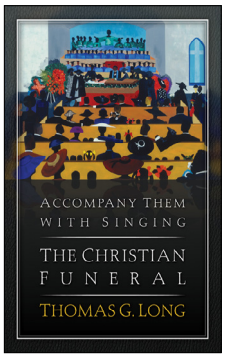

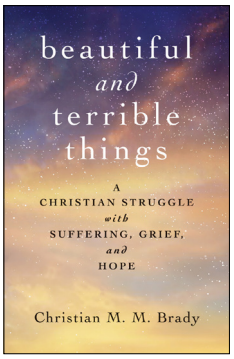

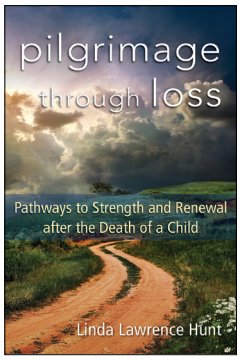

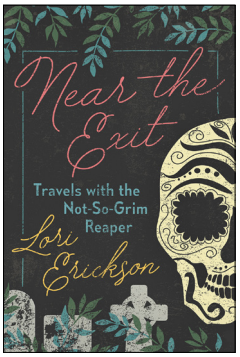

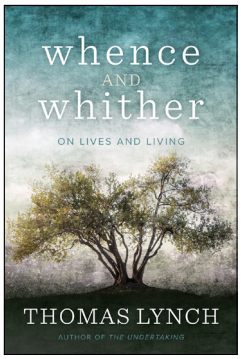

The Good Funeral *Death, Grief, and the Community of Care*	**Accompany Them with Singing—The Christian Funeral**	**Beautiful and Terrible Things** *A Christian Struggle with Suffering, Grief, and Hope*	**Pilgrimage through Loss** *Pathways to Strength and Renewal after the Death of a Child*	**Near the Exit** *Travels with the Not-So-Grim Reaper*	**Whence and Whither** *On Lives and Living*
Thomas G. Long & Thomas Lynch	Thomas G. Long	Christian M. M. Brady	Linda Lawrence Hunt	Lori Erickson	Thomas Lynch
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Through their different lenses—one as a preacher and one as a funeral director—Thomas G. Long and Thomas Lynch alternately discuss several challenges facing "the good funeral," including the commercial aspects that have led many to be suspicious of funeral directors, the sometimes tense relationship between pastors and funeral directors, the tendency of modern funerals to exclude the body from the service, and the rapid growth in cremation.	This book begins by describing how the Christian funeral developed historically, theologically, and liturgically, and then discusses recent cultural trends in funeral practices, including the rise in both cremations and memorial services. He describes the basic pattern for a funeral service, details options in funeral planning, identifies characteristics of a "good funeral," and provides thoughtful guidance for preaching at a funeral.	With deep faith, knowledge of Scripture, and the wisdom of experience, Brady guides readers grieving losses in voicing their lament to God, reflecting on the nature of human existence, and persevering in hope. Brady finds that rather than an image of God managing every event in our lives, the biblical account describes the world in which we all live, full of hardship that often comes unbidden and unmerited. Yet, it also is a world into which God lovingly intrudes to bring comfort, peace, and grace. Download the reader guide.	*Pilgrimage through Loss* tells the story of one family's journey, along with interviews from thirty other mothers and fathers who have experienced the death of a child. Hunt illuminates the varied pathways parents eventually discover that open their lives to strength and healing. Rather than prescribing a path, Hunt encourages parents to find the pathways that work for them as they seek to engage life again with meaning and hope. Each chapter includes questions for reflection and discussion, plus recent research on grief and loss.	After her brother died unexpectedly and her mother moved into a dementia-care facility, spiritual travel writer and Episcopal deacon Lori Erickson felt called to a new quest: to face death head on, with the eye of a tourist and the heart of a pastor. Blending memoir, spirituality, and travel, *Near the Exit* examines how cultures confront and have confronted death. Erickson reflects on mortality—the ways we avoid it, the ways we cope with it, and the ways life is made more precious by accepting it. Download the reader guide.	From one of our most gifted writers and thinkers about death and the meaning of living comes a collection of writings about "what comes next." Thomas Lynch, funeral director, poet, and author, has an uncanny knack for writing about death in ways that are never morbid, always thoughtful, often humorous, and quite moving. From his recounting of the funeral for a young child in the 1800s to his compelling essay about his own mortality, Lynch always finds ways to make sense of senseless things, as he ponders what will come next.
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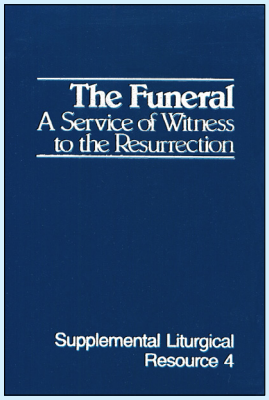

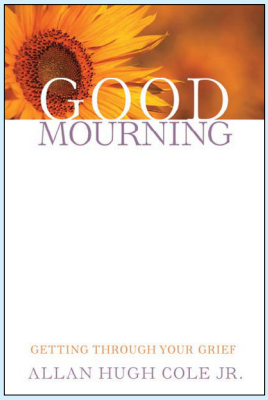

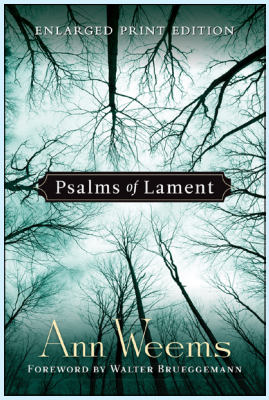

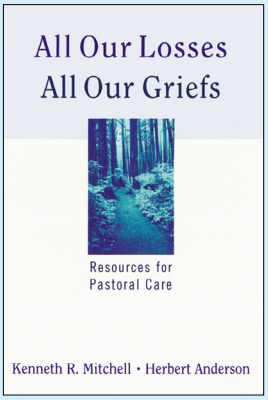

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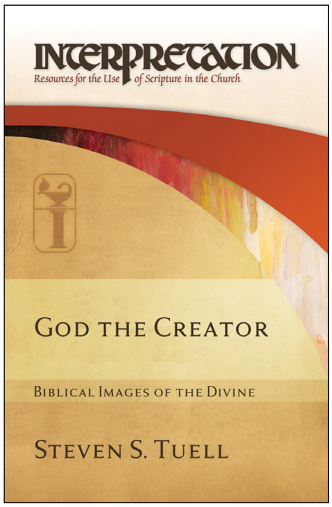

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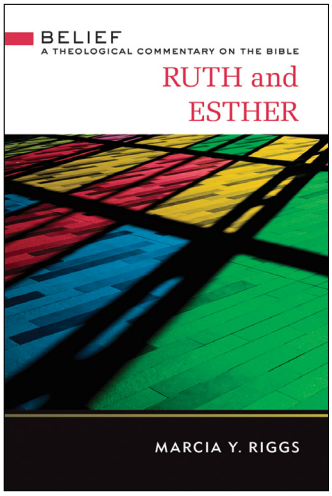

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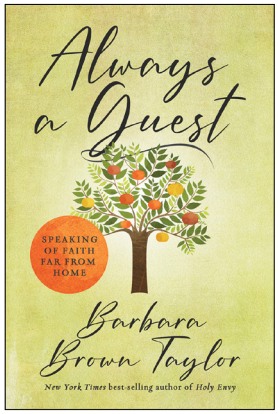

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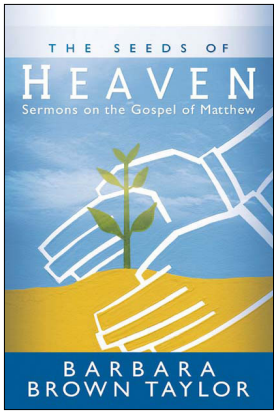

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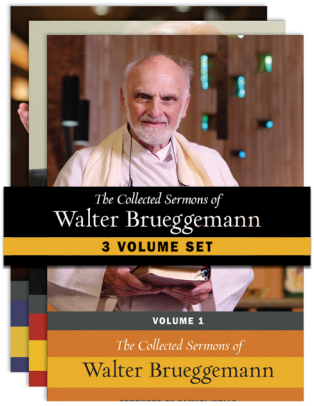

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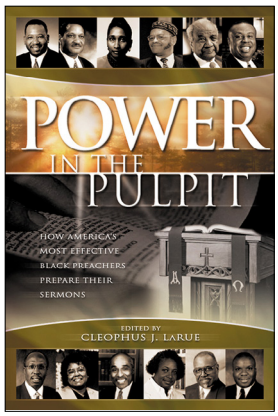

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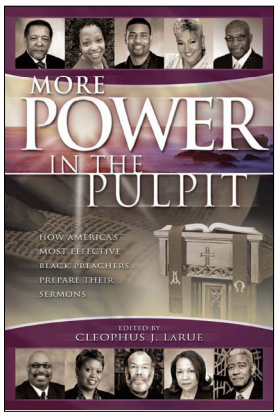

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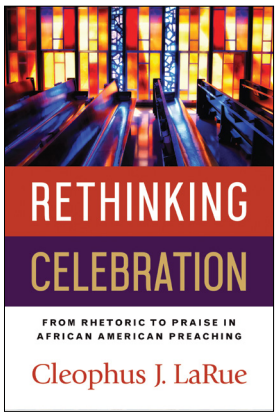

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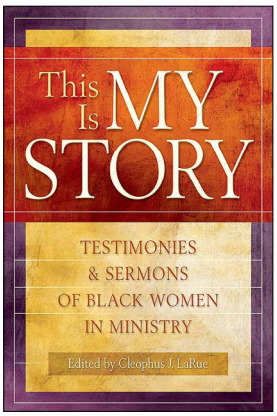

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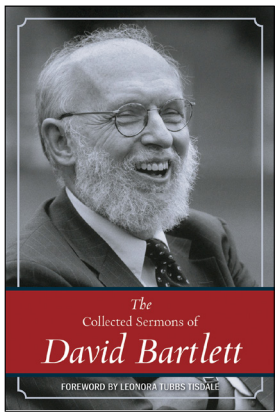

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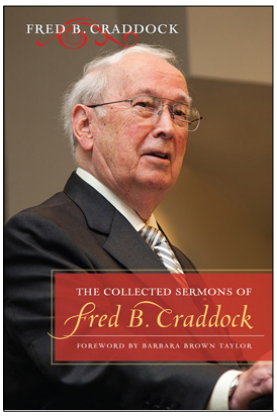

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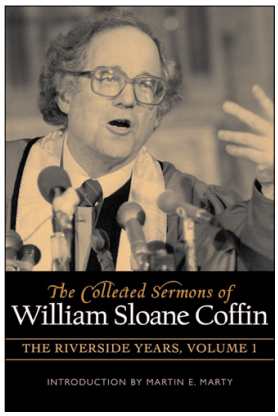

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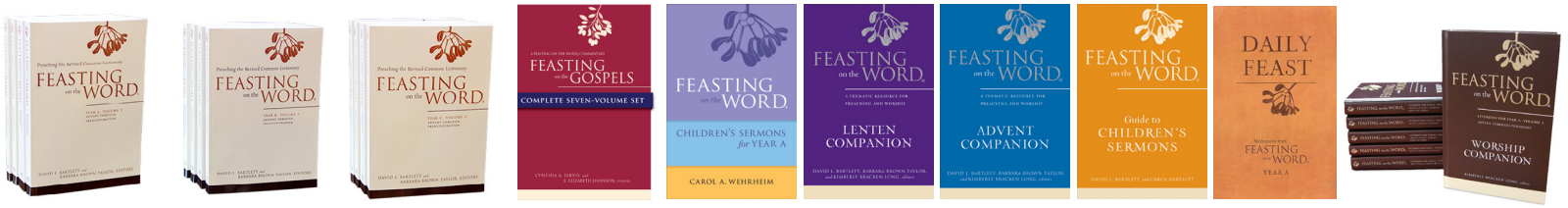

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