

# Transforming Worship

## A Simple Guide to Planning and Leading Worship

### Session 2 Patterns of Worship

#### *The Book of Common Prayer Legacy*

- The epitome of Anglican 'givenness'
- A formulary
- Statutory authority
- A continuing practice (alongside the *Common Worship* library of resources)

#### **The Character of Anglican Worship**

- Anglican worship is regular, ordered, liturgical worship: daily; weekly
- Liturgical texts are seen as a primary source of Anglican doctrine
- Liturgical texts provide a pattern for personal devotion as well as congregational worship
- Liturgy is provided to mark the great turning points of life: birth, marriage, sickness, death

The Anglican liturgical tradition encompasses 'things old and new' (see Matthew 13.52). Significantly influenced during the twentieth century by the continental Liturgical Movement and related growth in ecumenism, more liberty was afforded by permissive rubrics, alternative texts, and scope for local composition (e.g. prayers of intercession), leading to the publication of **Common Worship** resources from 2000.

#### **Insights from the Canons of the Church of England**

##### **Canon B1.2** *Of conformity of worship*

Every minister shall **use only the forms of service authorized by this Canon**, except so far as s/he may exercise the discretion permitted by Canon B5.

It is the minister's responsibility to have a good understanding of the forms of service used and s/he shall endeavour to ensure that the **worship offered glorifies God and edifies the people**.

##### **Canon B 5.1** *Of discretion of ministers in conduct of public prayer*

The minister who is to conduct the service **may in his/her discretion make and use variations which are not of substantial importance** in any form of service authorized by Canon 1 according to particular circumstances.

##### **Canon B5.3** *Of discretion of ministers in conduct of public prayer*

All variations in forms of service and all forms of service used under this Canon should be **reverent and seemly** and **shall be neither contrary to, nor indicative of any departure from, the doctrine of the Church of England on any essential matter**.

## Using the Lectionary

A lectionary (from Latin: *lectionarium*) is a book or listing that contains a collection of scripture readings appointed for Christian or Judaic worship on a given day or occasion.

### ***The Book of Common Prayer* Lectionary - Daily and Sunday**

The Psalms shall be read through once every month, as it is there appointed, both for Morning and Evening Prayer.

The Old Testament is appointed for the First Lessons at Morning and Evening Prayer, so as the most part thereof will be read every year once ...

The New Testament is appointed for the Second Lessons at Morning and Evening Prayer, and shall be read orderly every year twice ...

## The development of the Revised Common Lectionary

- 1969 *Ordo Lectionum Missae*, a three-year lectionary produced by the Roman Catholic Church
- 1974 The COCU Lectionary, published in by the Consultation on Church Union (COCU)
- 1983 The Common Lectionary
- 1994 The Revised Common Lectionary, which takes us through the liturgical year

## The Revised Common Lectionary

This follows a three year cycle: Year A, Year B, Year C. In Year A the bulk of Gospel material is drawn from Matthew, in Year B from Mark and John, in Year C from Luke. John is also used significantly during Christmas and Epiphany, pre- and post-Easter in all years. Churches have the option of adopting their own reading schemes and sermon series during periods of Ordinary Time.

The Sunday Lectionary provides readings for:

- Principal Service (In Ordinary time there are two sets of readings - Continuous and Related)
- Second Service
- Third Service

During the week, the Lectionary provides readings for:

- Holy Communion
- Morning Prayer
- Evening Prayer

## Useful Sources:

**Common Worship Lectionary app:** <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/app/lectionary>

A subscription allows you to use the app on up to five devices: iPad, Android smartphones and tablets, computer with internet access.

**Oremus Almanac:** A complete Calendar and Lectionary according to the Church of England for both *The Book of Common Prayer* and *Common Worship*: <https://almanac.oremus.org/>



***New Patterns for Worship*** (Revised Edition, CHP, 2002)

- A directory approach
- Helpful introduction exploring patterns of church life based on four imaginary churches
  
- Contents in brief:
  - Planning worship
  - Resources Sections
  - Essential reading!
    - A Gathering and Greeting
    - B Penitence
    - C Liturgy of the Word
    - D Psalms and Canticles
    - E Creeds and Affirmations of Faith
    - F Prayers
    - G Praise and Thanksgiving
    - H The Peace
    - I Action and Movement
    - J Conclusion
  
  - Sample Services
    - Standard Non-Eucharistic Services
    - Communion Services
    - Seasonal Services of the Word
    - Special Days and Occasions

***Common Worship: Times and Seasons*** (CHP, 2006, Brown book)

“Over time, an annual cycle of commemoration was laid over the rhythm of the week. This provided the Church with a way of meditating deeply on the successive episodes of Christ’s saving life and death, from his conception in Mary’s womb, through his death and resurrection, to his ascension to his place at the right hand of the Father and the descent of the Holy Spirit promised by him... The liturgical year provides a structure for the Church’s collective memory.” (Introduction, p.1)

- A directory approach
- Guidance on the order of the Christian year and marking the seasons
  
- Contents in brief:
  - The Calendar
  - Rules to Order the Church Year – some useful pointers here
  - Advent
  - Christmas
  - Epiphany
  - Lent
  - Passiontide and Holy Week
  - Easter (including Ascension and Pentecost)
  - Trinity to All Saints (Trinity Sunday; Corpus Christi; Dedication Festival; Bible Sunday)
  - Seasons and Festivals of the Agricultural Year: Creation; Plough Sunday; Rogationtide; Lammastide; Harvest Thanksgiving; Prayer in times of agricultural crisis
  - Embertide
    - days of prayer during the week before an ordination;
    - general days of prayer for those serving the Church both lay and ordained

### ***Together for a Season: Vol. 1***

#### ***All Age Seasonal Resources for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany*** (CHP, 2006)

- Useful introductory essays
- Contents in brief
  - Seasonal introductions
  - Three pathways The Wreath; The Crib; The Jesse tree
  - Resources on CD Rom

### ***Together for a Season: Vol. 2***

#### ***All Age Seasonal Resources for Lent, Holy Week and Easter*** (CHP, 2007)

- Helpful introductory material
- Contents in brief
  - Seasonal introductions
  - Three pathways The Lenten Tree; Heads, Hands and Hearts; Stations
  - Resources on CD Rom

### ***Together for a Season: Vol. 3***

#### ***All Age Seasonal Resources for Feasts and Festivals of the Christian Year*** (CHP, 2009)

- Three distinctive sections
- Contents in brief
  - Celebrating God's providence Seasons and festivals of the Agricultural Year  
Exploring creation through the Agricultural Year
  - Remembering All Saints; All Souls; Remembrance Sunday
  - Following God's call Key people; Transfiguration; Holy Cross Day;  
St Michael and All Angels
  - Resources on CD Rom

#### ***Common Worship: Additional Collects*** (CHP, 2004)

Commissioned in response to a request for 'additional collects in a worthy contemporary idiom'.

- Short and simple in syntax
- Vivid and interesting in their themes and imagery
- Accessible language
- Particularly useful for All-Age services

Please note that there are other less relevant volumes of Common Worship such as *CW Christian Initiation* and *CW Pastoral Services* not listed in detail here.

With the exception of the volumes of *Together for a Season*, the above resources are all available to download from the Church of England website at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources>