



WEEK 1 - OVERVIEW OF A PRAYER BOOK FOR AUSTRALIA

A bit of history – The Book of Common Prayer

1549 Thomas Cranmer

1552

1559 —————> 1661 Elizabethan Settlement then Puritan Commonwealth

Main features include:-

- Latin → English
- Simplified
- One book of prayers for all people: “common” prayer book
- Clear reformed doctrines
- Restored the cup to laity
- Restored preaching
- Restores two readings – Epistle and Gospel
- Holy Communion ‘compulsory’ - 3 times/year (not once/year)

Other elements:-

- Strong emphasis on confession of sins, unworthiness
- Priest led prayers
- Fixed forms e.g. intercessions

IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN LITURGICAL REFORM

- a) Book of Common Prayer language archaic.
- b) Discovery of early church practices
- c) Four-fold nature of Eucharist: Action, not words (taking, breaking, blessing, giving)
- d) Other ‘lost’ dimensions: e.g. Peace
- e) Worship was the work of everyone, not just the Priest.

The Book of Common Prayer is still authorised and the first worship on a Sunday at most Cathedrals is the 1662 order (or a modified version).

An Australian Prayer Book was released in 1978. It is considered supplementary to the Book of Common Prayer and not a replacement of it.

A Prayer Book for Australia was released in 1995. It is a book of ‘resources’ for use with the Book of Common Prayer and An Australian Prayer Book.

- More options for worship (multiple thanksgiving prayers) & three ‘standard’ orders (conservative, mainstream and more flexible)
- Use of inclusive language (at least at the time)
- An attempt to reflect the human role in life and liturgy – more inclusive and acceptance of ‘human needs’

- 2 main 'versions' – Red and Green
 - Green Cover
 - Sunday Services, including Baptism and Confirmation
 - Liturgical Psalter (Psalms)
 - Daily Prayer
 - Church Year
 - Supplementary Material (Outline Order, Catechism, Creeds, etc)
 - Red (commonly called 'The Brick') Cover
 - Pastoral Services (marriage, ministry with the sick and dying, funerals)
 - The Ordinal (Making, Ordaining and Consecrating of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons)
 - Blue – large print of the red cover

A LOOK THROUGH A PRAYER BOOK FOR AUSTRALIA

1. Sunday Services

- Services of the Word
 - Morning and Evening Prayer (First Order) – updated language for the Book of Common Prayer, designed to be used when the choir will sing the canticles
 - Morning and Evening Prayer (Second Order) – more relaxed than first form and designed for an extended time of prayer and bible reading
 - A Service of Prayer, Praise and Proclamation – designed for when the congregation will have confession and/or profession of faith
 - Used to be known as “Matins” and “Evensong”
 - They have their basis in the Jewish synagogue where the Scriptures were read, and prayer and praises offered to God.
 - This was the ‘basic diet’ for Anglicans on Sundays from Cranmer’s time (Holy Communion as the ‘standard’ is a very recent experience. In the revisions between Cranmer and 1662, a homily or sermon and hymns were added but these were always optional.
 - AAPB (1978) added the confession
 - The more distinctive ‘Monastic’ tradition of daily and evening prayer (not be used each day is found under the term ‘Daily Offices’.
- Thanksgiving for a Child
 - Quite a distinct service from Baptism, this allows for the parents (and family) of a child to express their thanks to God without making the commitments of raising them as disciples of Christ.
- Holy Baptism
 - Holy Baptism, Confirmation in Holy Communion together with the provision for Re-affirmation of Baptismal Vows and Reception
 - It seeks to recover the place of the sacrament of baptism within the community of the people of God.
 - Baptism is communal, not private
 - The gift of God is the same whether the candidate is an adult or a child.
 - Baptism should be provided after a period of preparation.

- Baptism is the complete rite, not ‘half the sacrament’; confirmation and reaffirmation are part of the one sacrament. Therefore, what we interpret as liturgies all have the same basis and foundation.
 - Holy Communion also called the Eucharist and the Lord’s Supper
 - First order – contemporary (for 1995) language of the 1662 BCP Eucharist
 - Second order – the Lambeth Conferences in 1958 and 1968 provided guidelines to reforms and the 2nd order reflects what became common practice around the world. It’s a ‘shape’ accepted ecumenically and internationally. This order aims at flexibility.
 - Third order – like the second order but it’s aim is simplicity.
 - Prayers for Various Occasions
 - Specific prayers for specific occasions. Unfortunately, many are dated but still a helpful resource for prayers.
2. The Liturgical Psalter
- A translation of the psalms designed for use in worship.
 - They can be read or sung.
 - Recently there has been a lot of commentary that they are no longer “inclusive enough”
3. Daily Prayer
- The Daily Services
 - Monastic tradition of praying 8 times per day was combined with the Cathedral tradition (with a focus on reciting psalms and short portions of readings)
 - “Office” comes from the Latin term, “duty” – prayer is both a privilege and a duty
 - Have a three-fold structure:
 - Introduction and response (Canticle)
 - Readings and response (Canticle)
 - Prayers including Lord’s Prayer, the Collect, and finishing with a sentence of scripture (the response then is how we live our lives that day/night)
 - A Service of the Light
 - Prayer at the end of the Day (Compline)
4. The Church’s Year
- The Calendar
 - The Readings
 - Sunday Readings use the 3-year cycle (mid-week use a 2-year cycle)
 - The Old Testament reading is chosen to foreshadow the gospel as a whole and not specific to the gospel reading for the day. The intent is to allow larger continuous sections of the Old Testament to be read.
 - Year A – Gospel of Matthew; and Old Testament books of Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy 34, Joshua 3 & 24, Judges 4
 - Year B – Gospel of Mark; and Old Testament books of 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, Song of Songs 2, Proverbs, Job, Ruth 1 & 3
 - Year C – Gospel of Luke; and Old Testament books of 1 & 2 Kings, Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Joel 2, Habakkuk, Daniel 7, Haggai

- John's gospel is read on Christmas Day and during Lent and Easter (and other occasions)
 - Acts is read during the Easter season as the story of the early Church.
 - The New Testament reading is chosen to allow large continuous sections of the letters to be read. They do not necessarily have a common theme with the Gospel or Old Testament readings for the day.
 - Some updates are made by General Synod and the Liturgical Commission each year, and these are marked in the Lectionary (eg Defence Force Sunday)
 - The Collects
 - A Collect – is a communal prayer to gather (collect) the individual prayers of the congregation.
 - Collects have a standard structure
 - Address *O God*
 - Ground of making the petition *who did teach the hearts*
 - Petition *grant us*
 - Benefit *to have a right judgement*
 - Mediation of Christ *by the merits of Jesus Christ*
 - Trinitarian Doxology *who lives and reigns, one God*
 - Congregational response **Amen.**
 - Mostly compositions of Thomas Cranmer and updated to contemporary language however many were translations of Popes Leo and Gelasius in the 5th & 6th century.
 - Most grounded in Scripture.
5. Pastoral Services (Red Book only)
- Marriage
 - Ministry with the Sick (resources for use when someone is sick at home or hospital)
 - Ministry with the Dying (resources for use when someone is dying at home or hospital)
 - Funeral Services
 - Reconciliation of a Penitent – confession and absolution with a Priest or Bishop
6. The Ordinal (Red Book only)
- Ordination of Deacons
 - Ordination of Priests
 - Ordination of Bishops
7. Supplementary Material
- Holy Communion: Outline Order – what must be included for Holy Communion services
 - A Catechism
 - The Articles of Religion
 - Athanasian Creed

HANDOUTS

Passing the Torch - An Anglican Angle - Prayer Book Worship

RESOURCES

Australian Anglicans Worship / Charles Sherlock (2020)

Handbook for Liturgical Assistants at the Eucharist / Anglican Church Southern Queensland (2014)

A prayer book for Australia : a practical commentary / edited by Gillian Varcoe (1997)

When we meet for Worship : a manual for using An Australian Prayer Book / Gilbert Sinden (1978)