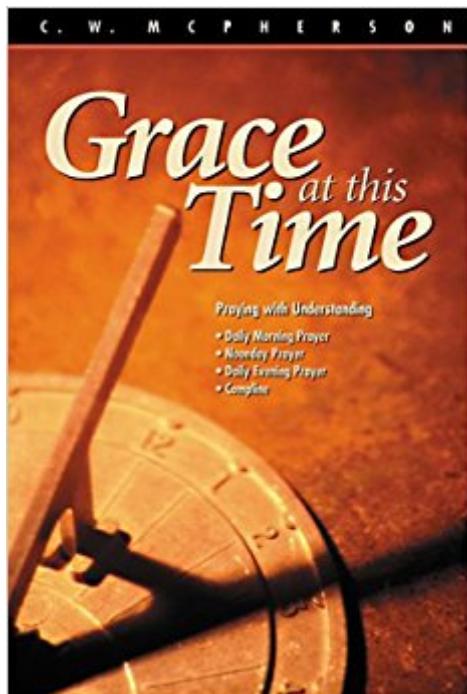


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# Grace At This Time: Praying The Daily Office



## Synopsis

"As far as the Daily Office is concerned, the current edition of the American Book of Common Prayer is underemployed. Most faithful church people seem to know and use only certain limited portions of it or assume it is the special domain of clergy and monastics. This is not the original intent of the Office. Using it in this way is like using a new automobile exclusively as a water heater. It can be used this way, but it would be a bizarre restriction. Very few Christians seem to think of the Daily Office as something intended for all baptized persons, but this is actually its nature and purpose." - from the Introduction The discipline of praying the Daily Office has fallen out of practice in recent years, even while many Americans seek to deepen their spiritual lives. The Discipline of the Daily Office is for all Christians, Episcopalian or otherwise, who seek a deeper relationship with God and scripture through a regular daily practice. In accessible language, C.W. McPherson explores the history, theology, and spirituality inherent in Morning and Evening Prayer, as well as the Minor Offices. He also provides practical instructions about the Office to help those who wish to use these prayers thoughtfully. This book is an excellent resource for anyone who wishes to understand this ancient tradition more completely. The Rev. C.W. McPherson has spent twenty years in parish ministry and is also a spiritual director, retreat leader, and a mentor for deacons and priests in formation. He teaches theology and church history. He is a published poet and the author of Understanding Faith: An Exploration of Christian Theology. He lives in New Rochelle, New York.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The great virtue of (McPherson's) writing is his clarity. He has a knack for writing as one would want a good teacher to teach. In this book he explains what the Daily Office is, how to use it, how to understand it as part of Anglican tradition, and how to interpret it theologically. McPherson takes the Office a part, looks at the pieces, and then puts it back together. The book is full of observations that are richly evocative and reveal a deep understanding of the way liturgy can work in our life.

McPherson is also concrete. He is as clear about how to pray as he is about the meaning of prayer. Daily prayer is as important to Christian life as the Eucharist. This book shows us how to use the tools we have - the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible - to make prayer in its many forms an integral part of our lives.

... an informative and very useful commentary, instruction manual, and devotional guide to praying the Daily Office... -- Values and Visions... one of the best kept secrets of the Church and McPherson has done... us a service in uncovering its treasures. -- Alan Jones, Dean of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, author of *Passion for Pilgrimage* and *the Soul's Journey*... valuable resource... leads us through the Daily Office making it more accessible to the reader unaccustomed to... these services.

-- The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church USAAn informative and very useful commentary, instruction manual, and devotional guide to praying the Daily Office in the Book of Common Prayer. -- Values and Visions, January 2000The book awakens us to the importance of daily reflection and prayer and gives very useful paths into helpful traditions and liturgies that will expand our horizon and deepen our awareness. The book will serve wll for individual study, but also for group spirituality. An excellent teaching and historic resource. --

Resources Hotline

This is an awesome book. It is especially recommended for persons who are new to praying the Daily Office. It simplifies what might seem to some a daunting task, while at the same time suffusing the words of the Book of Common Prayer with great meaning both intellectually and emotionally. One comes away from finishing this book with new resolve and excitement about incorporating the Office into one's daily life.

This comprehensive little book answers just about every question one could have about the Daily Office of the Episcopal Church-how to pray it, its history, and theology. Especially helpful are the series of actual questions asked and answered at the end of the book. An increasing number of people seem to be praying the Daily Office, and there's a real need for a guide on how to do so,

since most churches in the U.S. no longer offer it on Sundays or during the week, and at first glance it might appear to be complicated. I've been praying the Daily Office for over ten years, and wish this book had existed when I first began. It has increased my appreciation for the Office and my knowledge of it, I've given it as a gift, and heartily recommend it.

In 147 pages McPherson covers the evolution of the Daily Offices with remarkable clarity. The book is an easy read and covers the Morning Prayer office in beautiful detail. I suggest that it should be required reading for anyone new in the Episcopal Church.

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