



## COURSE TITLE: The Book of Common Prayer: Introductory Perspectives

*Designation: Core Requirement for All Layreaders*

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### *Book of Common Prayer 1962 Canada*

*"The Book of Common Prayer: a book so scriptural that it is full of scripture from one end to the other, and built altogether upon it"* (Bishop John Medley)

**Prayer Book Society of Canada** "The *Book of Common Prayer* is not only of interest for students of Anglicanism, since it has played an important role in the life of the English speaking world more generally. Along with the King James Bible and the greatest works of English literature, the Prayer Book has been central in shaping the culture and thought of the English-speaking world." <http://prayerbook.ca/>

### Overview

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is so much more than a liturgical resource book. This course endeavours to provide introductory perspectives relating to the history, structure and collects as well as provide a brief overview of the daily office. It is the intent that this course will provide a foundation for discussion between the layreader and incumbent and is not intended as an in depth study of the BCP.

### Objectives

On completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Provide an outline of how the BCP is used as both a resource and in public prayer.
2. Describe how the liturgy of the BCP teaches us to hear and understand Scripture.
3. Provide a basic understanding of the history of the BCP.
4. Introduce the importance of the collects & leading worship.

### Reading & Video Assignment

1. Read i) 'Dr. Ingalls Introductory Reflections' ii) Elements of the Book of Common Prayer and iii) A Prayer Book Glossary  
**Video 1. Shape to Our Worship:** "The Book of Common Prayer & the Book of Alternative Services" by the Rev. Peter Armstrong from the Lay Reader Association of Nova Scotia and P.E.I. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9cuyoYwwAY&feature=youtu.be>
2. Read i) 'The Prayer Book Society: The BCP Story' and ii) 'The Development of the Book of Common Prayer' by Rev. David Peer and iii) the Collects: Origin and Structure.  
**Video 2. BCP: Introductory Perspectives (Brief History, Structure & Collects)** Canon Bruce Glencross
3. **Video 3. BCP: Leading Worship** Canon Bruce Glencross

## Supplementary Video Assignment

### 1. Leading Morning Prayer Rev. Dr. Cole Hartin

<https://youtu.be/41xJMud-cCE> (Video Addendum: St. John Chrysostom was a priest in Antioch and Archbishop of Constantinople).

*Cole Hartin is the assistant curate at St. Luke's Church, Parish of Portland. He lives in Saint John with his wife, three sons, and a sad cat. He has a PhD in theological studies from Wycliffe College and the University of Toronto. He has published dozens of popular and scholarly articles.*

## Practical Assignment

Pick one element of the Book of Common Prayer that you have learned through this course and discuss with your incumbent.

## Pause and Consider

How has the Book of Common Prayer affected your life and service to God?

## Evaluation

On course completion please complete the online evaluation or paper copy.

## Supplementary Resources

- **The Historic Heritage of the Book of Common Prayer** by Matt Gardner from the Anglican Church of Canada website  
<https://www.anglican.ca/news/historic-heritage-book-common-prayer/30017961/>
- **1662 Daily Office:** The Book of Common Prayer: Praying the Daily Morning Office (Cambridge Book of Common Prayer 1662)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwX57jjQJxU>
- **COURSE TITLE: PRAYING THE COLLECTS** from [ChurchNext™](#) by Ellen Wondra  
Available at:  
<https://www.churchnext.tv/library/praying-the-collects-with-ellen-wondra/about/>  
Note: There is a small fee to take this course. Please ask your incumbent and wardens regarding re-imbusement.
- **Additional Handouts:**
  - Liturgies of the Primitive Church
  - Praying with Understanding: Explanations of Words and Passages in the Book of Common by R. T. Beckwith
  - Language & Liturgy by G L Bray, S A Wilcockson & R A Leaver

### **Additional Videos of interest from the Episcopal Church Prayer Book -United States:**

- Daily Office Basics - Part 1 - Daily Office Origins (Grace Abounds)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLwNrZ8OD\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLwNrZ8OD_c)
- Daily Office Basics - Part 2 - Finding Your Place (Grace Abounds)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETaTAAujVy4>

### **BOOKS**

- **McCausland's Order of Divine Service** Includes all the basic information for planning services and selecting readings and collects for every day of the church year. Full citations for the Sunday lectionaries of the Revised Common Lectionary and Book of Common Prayer, daily eucharistic readings of the RCL and BCP, and daily office citations from the Book of Alternative Services and Book of Common Prayer. Hymns for each Sunday and major feasts are selected from Common Praise and the 1938 and 1971 Hymnals. Product may differ from image shown. Published Yearly. Available online through Amazon or Broughton's.
- **Discovering the Book of Common Prayer: A Hands on Approach Vol 1. (2003)** By Sue Careless published by the Anglican Book Store. This is volume I of a three-volume series. This book provides a fresh and inviting introduction to the 1962 Canadian Book of Common Prayer. Attractively illustrated and at the same time eminently readable and satisfyingly meaty, it can be enjoyed by new or lifelong churchgoers, young or old. Volume I introduces the series and covers Morning and Evening Prayer, family prayers, Compline and the Litany. It won a Word Guild Canadian Writing Award in 2004.
- **The Study of Liturgy Revised Ed. (1992) Oxford University Press.** Edited by Cheslyn Jones, Edward Yarnold, Geoffrey Wainwright and Paul Bradshaw with articles by Roger Beckwith.

### **WEBSITE RESOURCES**

- **Revised Common Lectionary Tips & Resources**  
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/fag2.php>
- **How To Use The Revised Common Lectionary**  
<https://www.ashleydanyew.com/posts/how-to-use-the-revised-common-lectionary>
- **BCP Online** <http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/>
- **Anglican Church of Canada Online Lectionary (BAS & BCP)**  
<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/>