

Session 2 – March 20, 2014

# The Bible & the Book of Common Prayer

**Who Wrote It?** The Development of the Book of Common Prayer



The Right Rev. Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury

**Who was Archbishop Cranmer?**

- ▶ English Reformer during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, and briefly, Mary I.
- ▶ Established the first theological & liturgical structures of the Church of England under Henry VIII.
- ▶ Under Edward VI, Cranmer wrote the first two editions of the *BCP* & and his doctrinal ideas later influenced the “Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion.” (*BCP* p867)
- ▶ When Mary I came to the throne Cranmer was arrested for treason and burned at the stake.

## Revisions to the English Book of Common Prayer

- **1549** Under Edward VI, following “The Act of Uniformity,” making the first prayer book the official order of worship for the Church of England. Based on the Latin Rites, but greatly simplified and in English.
- **1552** Under Edward VI, moved in a decidedly “Calvinist” direction. Abolished more Catholic ceremonies; implied that the presence of Christ resided in the

heart of the worshiper, not the elements. Only used for eight months, when Edward died and Catholic Mary, the only child of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, who lived into adulthood, was monarch of England.

- **1559** Under Elizabeth I, the Prayer Book returns and was revised as a means to make and keep peace. It restored the use of vestments, eliminated an inflammatory reference to the Bishop of Rome, and took a carefully considered road between Catholic and Protestant extremes. The “Via Media” was the genius of the Elizabethan Settlement.
- **1604** Under James I there were slight revisions.
- **1662** Under Charles II, after the Commonwealth Period, where it remains today.

## **The American Book of Common Prayer**

### **1789 Prayer Book**

1. Authorized at the First General Convention in Philadelphia in 1789.
2. Used by the Church for the next 100 years.

### **1892 Prayer Book**

1. Great debate, modest revisions, spoke to growing ecumenical movement in the United States.
2. Used by the Church for 36 years.

### **1928 Prayer Book**

1. Significant changes, hammered out between 1913 & 1928. Most influential person was Edward Lambe Parsons. Theology professor at CDSP & later, Bishop of California.
2. Used by the Church for 51 years.

## The 1979 Prayer Book

- Influenced by the archeological recovery of “Early Church Practices”
- Process of revision actually began in 1949 and culminated in 1979.
- Based on early source materials
- Emergence of a different pattern of worship that echoed the Church of the first three centuries before the Eastern (Constantinople) and Western (Rome) split.
- Worship as a corporate action, contrasted against the growing individualism of modern world

### ***Along with the 1979 Book of Common Prayer came:***

1. Parish Eucharist as the principal Sunday worship service
2. Offertory and gospel processions
3. Freestanding Altars
4. The recovery of ancient patterns of corporate worship (e.g., “the Peace”)
5. A sense that the sacramental life of worship influences the secular activity outside the walls of the Church.

## **BCP 101: Where do I find it? An Overview**

- ▶ **Becoming Christian:** Holy Baptism, p299
- ▶ **Sharing a Common Meal:** Holy Eucharist, p323 (Rite I); p 355 (Rite II)
- ▶ **Praying throughout the Day:** The Daily Office
  - Morning Prayer, p37 (Rite I); p75 (Rite II)
  - Noonday Prayer, p103
  - An Order for Evening (“Vespers”), p109
  - Evening Prayer, p61 (Rite I); p115 (Rite II)
  - Compline (“Night Prayer”), p127

▶ **Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families:** pp136-140

Morning, Noonday, Evening, At Close of Day (4 times a day)

▶ **Marking the Seasons:** Calendar (p15); Liturgies for Special Days (Lent, p264 & Holy Week, pp270, 275, 276, 283,285), Collects, p159 (Rite I), p211 (Rite II)

▶ **Making Vows & Covenants:**

- Confirmation, p413
- Marriage, p423
- Ordination, p510-551

▶ **Praying in the Midst of Life:** The Pastoral Offices

- Thanksgiving for the birth or adoption of a child, p439
- The Reconciliation of a Penitent, p447
- Ministration to the Sick, p453
- Ministration at the Time of Death, p462
- The Burial of the Dead, p469 (Rite I); p491 (Rite II)

▶ **Tools for Prayer and Study:**

- The Psalter, p585
- Prayers & Thanksgivings, p810
- The Common Lectionary, [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)
- BCP Lectionary, Year A, p889; Year B, 900; Year C, 911
- An Outline of the Faith (The Catechism), p845
- Historical Documents, p864

**Recommended Reading**

- *Opening the Bible* (The New Church's Teaching Series) by Roger Ferlo
- *Opening the Prayer Book* (The New Church's Teaching Series) by Jeffrey Lee
- *Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer* by Vicki K. Black
- *The Book of Common Prayer: A Spiritual Treasure Chest – Selections Annotated & Explained* by The Rev. Canon C. K. Robertson