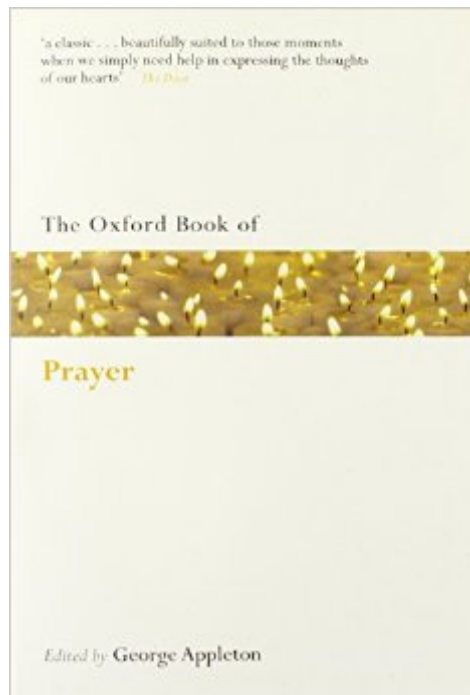


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The Oxford Book Of Prayer (Oxford Books Of Prose & Verse)



Synopsis

Now reset with a fresh contemporary look, here is an attractive reissue of the late Bishop George Appleton's celebrated selection of over 1,100 prayers from many centuries and many traditions, including Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Iranian, Shinto, Classical Greek and Latin, Native American, and Bahai. The wide-ranging contents of *The Oxford Book of Prayer* reflect the cooperation of the many advisers who have ensured that the choice of prayers is ecumenical in the widest sense of the word. The prayers are grouped under various headings and there is a subject index to guide the user to prayers for particular occasions, as well as an index of authors and sources. The book may thus be used for browsing or for more structured prayer, for private meditation or for public worship.

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Customer Reviews

There are many compilations of prayers out there: this is one of the better ones. While I am a Christian and am most interested in Christian prayers, approximately a third of the book is taken up with prayers of other religions: Jewish, Indian, Buddhist, Chinese, Zoroastrian, Greek and Roman, Baha'i, Primal, and Japanese. While this is a strength of the work in that it lends it a degree of comprehension, it also makes the work too much a work that tries to be all things to all people. Having said this, I appreciate the diversity, especially of the Christian prayers that are included. The prayers are taken from different historical eras, as well as different parts of the world.

The Christian prayers are taken from places as diverse as China, India, Ghana, Iran, Zaire, Taiwan, Nigeria, Polynesia, Gaelic, and Negro spirituals. Also intriguing and valuable is the diversity of the prayers represented by individuals such as Kierkegaard, Gerard Manly Hopkins, Mother Theresa, St. Patrick, Sir Thomas More, Samuel Johnson, James Clerk Maxwell (yes, the scientist!), Edmund Spencer, Christina Rossetti, Henry VI, Pope John XXIII, Francis Bacon, C.S. Lewis, Johann Kepler (the astronomer), and George MacDonald. The host of early and medieval church writers that one would expect in such a volume are also well-represented, as well as those from the Reformed, Lutheran, and Anglican traditions. This kind of diversity is wonderful, but it also means that some of the best prayers of the centuries are omitted in the interest of diversity. While these prayers may be accessible through a variety of other sources, it would have been nice to have seen them included as well in this volume.

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