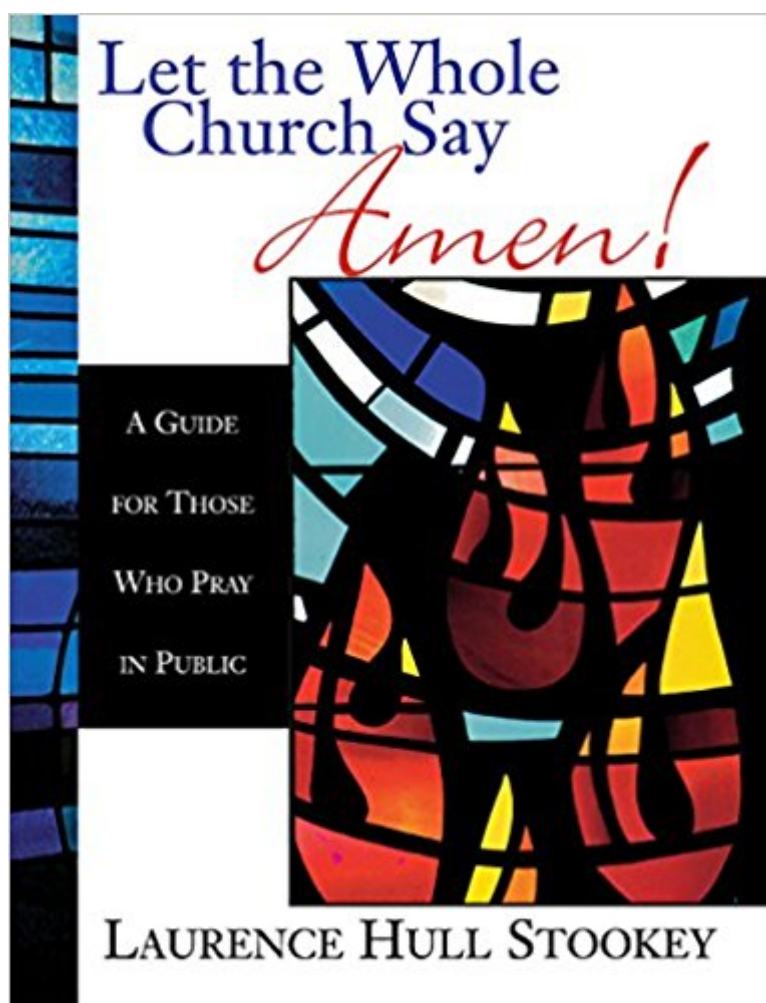


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Let The Whole Church Say Amen!: A Guide For Those Who Pray In Public



Synopsis

Stookey seeks to relieve the anxiety of inexperienced leaders of public prayer and the discomfort of those with and for whom they pray in this practical guide to the art of praying in public. The book has three parts.Â Â First, Stookey offers reflections on the nature of prayer, utilizing the image of a flow of energy.Â Â Second, he discusses the forms, mechanics, and vocabularies of prayer. His analysis brims with insight and practical application.Â Â Third, and most importantly, he provides concrete exercises in editing prayers. The reader is challenged to mark prayer texts and then to compare her or his own work with the author's as Stookey points out the particular issues that the exercises highlights. The book is clearly organized, economically written, and easy to use. Those who read carefully and complete the exercises will gain significant experience in crafting prayers to which the whole congregation can respond with an enthusiastic "Amen".

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Laurence Hull Stookey is Professor EmeritusÂ of Preaching and Worship, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington,D.C., and Pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church in Allen, MD. He has authored the following books for Abingdon: Eucharist: Christ's Feast With the Church; Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church; Baptism: Christ's Act in the Church; Let the Whole Church Say Amen; and This Day: A Wesleyan Way of Prayer. also tryÂ lstoockey@wesleyseminary.edu

Stookey has written a wonderful guide to public prayer to help worship leaders of every rank and

stripe bring prayer to people in the spirit of Jesus. He takes prayer into the realm of really talking to God rather than to the congregation and distinguishes between actually praying and preaching with one's eyes closed. Stookey reminds us that prayer is more than murmuring religious cliches and phrases that we have heard someone else do for a lifetime and gives us a gentle but firm reminder of what my old homiletics professor told us about public prayer - "Remember Who you're talking to and remember who you are talking for." This book should be in the hands of every church leader, clergy and laity alike, and for any of those who are called upon to pray out loud.

This workbook is a fabulous resource for anyone who is leading worship or praying in a public setting. Each time I invite people to attend this Lay Servant class, I hear the same thing, "Oh, I don't believe that prayers should be written down or prepared in advance. I think they should be spontaneous!". Then, 10 hours later, at the end of class, they ALL say, "Wow! I had NO idea there were so many types of prayers. I could/should be doing this better!" If you are preparing prayers for worship - unison prayers, litanies, prayers of confession, etc. - you can't very well do them spontaneously! They must be thought out in order to be meaningful. And they must be written down. This workbook is wonderful! One of my favorite sections is "Praying to the God that is Present". It reminds us that we DON'T need to ask God to 'be with us' or 'Be with John' He's ALREADY with us! And the section on the "Lord, we just wanna. . . ." type of prayers will crack you up! From seasoned Christians to new people in the faith, this book will challenge you to put the effort into making prayer - public or private - more meaningful. (Just taught a class of 12 and they raved about it!)

Needed this for the United Methodist Lay Servant course "Leading Public Prayer" and I found it to be thorough and led you to creatively think. Our class only covered part of the workbook but I completed it on my own for personal gain and enrichment.

I bought this book because it was a required text for a United Methodist Lay Servant course. I was pleasantly surprised by how good it is. The author explains that when we are praying in public, we are praying on behalf of the group and he gives tips and advice to better pray on behalf of a group. The author also gives the Biblical basis for these tips. God knows our thoughts and the author reminds us that God won't necessarily hear us any differently if we use these tips. However, it has made me think more about my own prayers. The book is easy to read and very practical and straightforward. I highly recommend it.

Excellent suggestions for learning how to give public prayers. When I first saw the suggested structure for a simple prayer, I was a bit dubious. However, after working through the information and practice exercises, I saw the value of this basic and flexible form. When next I listened to a pastor give a prayer, it gave me new appreciation for how the parts worked together to support each other and make a more coherent and powerful message. There were many helpful insights into what to say and what not to say. I will now remember the importance of choosing words the everyone listening can truly say "amen" to. This book was chosen for a class I'm taking for laity to become comfortable and proficient with public prayer. It has been well received by the participants.

I loved the book - the guidance on using Scripture to craft prayer in time-honored formats like collects and laments was truly excellent. It was challenging to read this on a Kindle, though, because the exercises in the book require pen/pencil edits that I couldn't easily do with an electronic version. Again, content and teaching is superb, but I'd recommend buying a paper copy of this book.

This was the book chosen for a lay leader training on prayer to be held the end of this month. Looking forward to reading it and studying it with attendees.

It was the selected reading for a class I took last weekend. The class size was 51 strong which gave the reading materials a chance for a vast array of opinions! The sample of participants was a diverse group from all levels of Christian education and Christian maturity! The book was believed to be, hands down, one of the very best teaching methods the more experienced readers/ ever used! It is one I will intent to use on a frequent basis!

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