

# Anglicanism 101

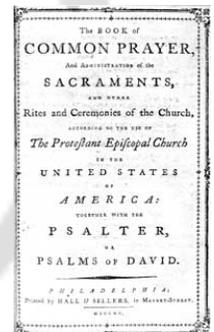
## Class 4: Anglican Book of Common Prayer

**What is contained in the Book of Common Prayer?**

**What are the pros and cons of having and using a Book of Common Prayer?**

### I. The Book of Common Prayer - a brief historical biography:

- **1534: Act of Supremacy:** King Henry VIII as head of CoE. Cranmer (first Archbishop of CoE) begins work on common worship in English, using Scripture and ancient sources.
- **1544: Great Litany:** composed and promoted by Cranmer.
- **1549: Book of Common Prayer (1<sup>st</sup> Edition):** authorized for all worship in England, Bible arranged for worship; after English translations of Bible (1539), catechism (1548).
- **1552: Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Revision (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition):** attempt at theological balance (between reformed Puritan and Roman Catholic interests).
- **1553: 42 Articles:** Anglican beliefs / **Queen Mary:** returns CoE to Rome, bans BCP.
- **1559: Queen Elizabeth:** returns CoE to Protestant, BCP revised (catholic influence).
- **1604: King James I:** BCP revised (Puritan influence).
- **1662: BCP revision:** post-Restoration edition published and enforced! Along with 1549 original, this is the basis for most future revisions.
- **1789: American BCP (1<sup>st</sup> Edition):** adapted for a republic.
- **1928: American BCP revision:** liturgy rearranged (but language stayed mostly the same).
- **1979: American BCP revision:** Rite I (traditional) and Rite II (modern language), liturgy rearranged; questions about theology of sin and human depravity.
- **2009: Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)** formed; prayer book revision in progress (2019 publication); completed parts available online: [legereme.com](http://legereme.com) / [anglicanchurch.net](http://anglicanchurch.net)



### II. Purpose: "One book for one country":

- One book for worship which would unify "all the whole realm," simple and edifying, based on scripture, in the common language, with reference to the early church, and with regular scripture reading (from Preface of 1549 BCP).
- How would you describe its purpose? "Bible arranged for worship"? Simple/complex? Outdated/Timeless? Unifying/Individualistic?
- It has been said that one grows into the prayer book, but one never outgrows it. Agree?

**III. Structure and Contents:** Provides guide for common worship, within a liturgical year, with options and themes to match church seasons, and a participatory nature. (Page numbers are from 1979 BCP)

- **The Daily Office** (page 37): Daily Morning Prayer, Daily Evening Prayer (also Noonday, Evening Worship, Compline, Daily Devotions); 2-year cycle for Morning/Evening prayer, including nearly all of scripture (and Psalms 5-8 times), complementing church calendar.

