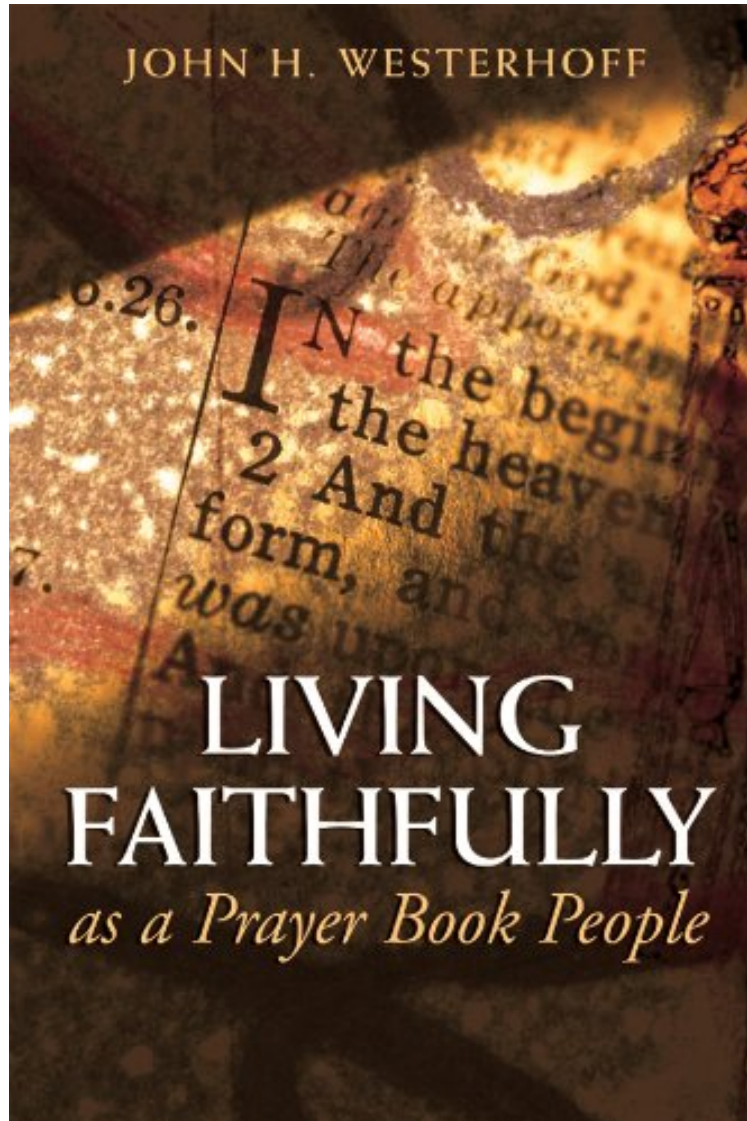


[Mobile book] Living Faithfully as a Prayer Book People

## Living Faithfully as a Prayer Book People

Von John H. Westerhoff

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**Von John H. Westerhoff : Living Faithfully as a Prayer Book People** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living Faithfully as a Prayer Book People:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. By the book... Von Fr Kurt Messick As Westerhoff states at the beginning of this book, it is difficult to define an Episcopalian (and even more difficult to define the more general category, Anglican, of which 'Episcopalian' is a subset). 'Yet, in spite of all our differences, we have one outstanding characteristic: We are a prayer book people.' It was a running joke

at my seminary (an ecumenical seminary with a very small minority of Anglican types) that one of the things that set the Episcopalian/Anglican students apart from the rest was that when you ask them to pray, they reach for a book. This is in large part due to the fact that the prayer life of the typical Anglican is informed and shaped by prayer book language. Indeed, when I've been charged to come up with 'spontaneous' prayer, I've been accused of reciting memorised prayers rather than forming new ones, because the language sounded so much like prayer book language. The use of the prayer book has a long heritage, and has shaped the Anglican identity and worship pattern for centuries. Westerhoff traces a brief history of the prayer book from the time of King Henry VIII and Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. One thing that is very apparent in this is that there is not one, perfect and sufficient Book of Common Prayer - it has been constantly revised (both in the British and American experience, not to mention the other nations/provinces in the Anglican world), and will continue to be a 'work in progress'. However, we are in a new information age, and Westerhoff asks important questions: 'What will it mean to be a people of a book when, instead of a bound book, congregations will print user-friendly disposable leaflets for particular liturgies from an ever-changing and expanding library of resources?' Westerhoff develops the idea of the Book of Common Prayer as an integral part of the Anglican story, continuing in a strain of narrative theological analysis that is both sturdy and flexible. The Anglican idea has long been one of the *via media* - the aspects of narrative theological interpretation of the community and the BCP's role in it allows for continuing growth and progress while maintaining a respect for history and tradition. Westerhoff shows the church calendar as being a progressive re-enactment in time for the church to tell its biblically-based story. Westerhoff also explores the different kinds of prayer, both personal and communal (the word 'common' in the title of the Book of Common Prayer relates to the communal aspect of prayer). In this book, Westerhoff shares his thoughts through brief meditations and essays. He develops these on different themes that arise in the liturgies and other pieces of the prayer book - baptism, communion, reconciliation, health and healing, living and dying. This is not meant to be an exhaustive or scholarly analysis of the prayer book and its pieces, but rather a reflection upon how these different components shape, and in turn are shaped by, those who adopt and are adopted into the prayer book community. This is a wonderful book, both for newcomers to the Anglican fold as well as long-time and even life-long members. It adds context, depth, and insight into the pages that are central to the life and identity of the Anglican community.

Kurzbeschreibung Episcopalian

Episcopalians consider themselves to be people whose individual and corporate lives are shaped by the Book of Common Prayer, but aside from worship on Sunday morning, few know what fills its nearly 1,000 pages. John Westerhoff, Episcopal priest and Christian educator, walks readers through the ways in which the contents of the Prayer Book can (and should) shape the life of those who call themselves Episcopalian. An excellent resource for parish study or reading in advance of seminary training, Westerhoff explores a brief history of the Prayer Book, and the ways in which it shapes us as pilgrim and prayerful people. How Episcopalian live into their baptism, live a Eucharistic and reconciling life, as well as a life of wholeness and health are explored in detail. All of this, as Westerhoff writes, helps us lead a holy life, and one day, to a holy death. John H. Westerhoff is an Episcopal priest, the former professor of theology and Christian nurture at Duke University, the author of many books about Christian education and life. For the last decade he has been theologian-in-residence at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

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ber den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende Westerhoff was Professor of Theology and Christian Nurture at Duke University Divinity School for 20 years, and is now founding director of the Institute for Pastoral Studies at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta, GA.