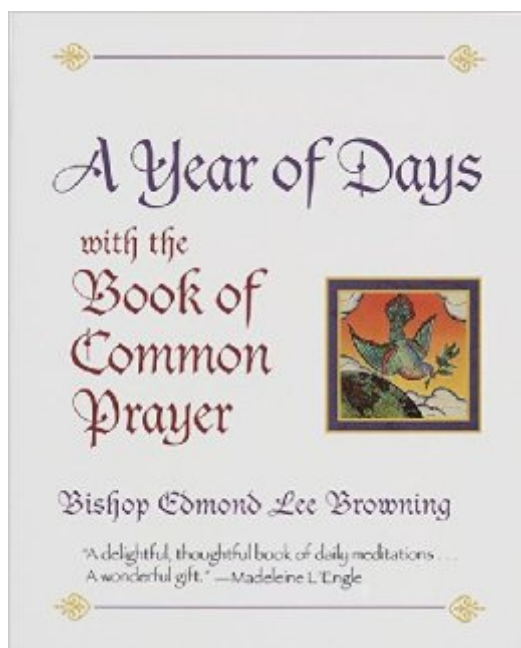


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# A Year Of Days With The Book Of Common Prayer



## Synopsis

The more I trust in God's goodness at work in my world, the more evidences of it I will see and the more opportunities for its exercise I will create. Edmond Lee Browning, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, has poured the experience, wisdom, and love of a lifetime into meditations that explore our spirit, heal our hurt, and renew our spirituality. In a world of uncertainty, Bishop Browning offers a voice of clarity--and above all, of hope. Inspired by the Book of Common Prayer, and filled with companionship, grace, and blessing, this daybook is one to be cherished every day of the year.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Book of Common Prayer contains the liturgy of the Episcopal Church for most occasions and the text of all the Psalms. Bishop Edmond Lee Browning, who has now retired as the presiding bishop of the United States, has taken brief phrases from here and there in the BCP and provided a thought-provoking meditation on each. His thoughts are as current as the Waco siege -- "we were haunted by the deaths of those little ones," he writes -- and how withdrawal from the world is not the way of Jesus. A passage about the weather reminds him that "We often have very little say over what will happen, but we have sole power over what we will do with it." Each BCP phrase has a page number with it, so you can look it up if you want to read more. Even if you are not familiar with the poetry of the Book of Common Prayer, Bishop Browning presents each passage without previous knowledge required. If you have a well-thumbed copy of the prayerbook, then you may be

surprised at the meaning he brings to oft-said words.

Edmond Lee Browning was presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States, rather like being an archbishop (save that the church here doesn't have them), a spiritual leader and figurehead more than a controlling hierarch -- he had to lead by persuasion and consensus building. Fortunately, Browning had the gift for that. This book of meditations demonstrates that gift full well. He has taken his lifetime of experiences and love and crafted them into meditations that explore the various avenues of the spirit. Sometimes happy, sometimes sombre, sometimes honestly painful and healing at the same time, Browning's book starts with the Book of Common Prayer, the foundational document for the Episcopal church, and uses various selected sayings from the liturgies and other contents to inspire daily readings. Browning doesn't restrict his meditations to particular themes, save perhaps the overarching theme of grace and love from God. The inspiration for each particular day (and each day is a one-page entry in the text) is a line or two of text from the BCP -- these lines come frequently from prayers (Collects) and Psalms, but may also come from other liturgical pieces, or even historical documents. Browning's meditations start here, but they are not intended to be exclusive to Episcopalians or the wider body of Anglicans -- what is contained herein is accessible to Christians of any denominational background, and many meditations are written broadly enough that they can be used in interfaith settings, also. The breadth of the spirit of God can be found here. Browning's book is a real blessing, one that is not tied to a particular year's calendar, so it may be used again and again. The book's use for lectio divina, a spiritual practice of meditative reading, is ideal; the pieces are short enough in length and weighty enough in content and substance that the thoughts and feelings generated can carry through the day. There is another Episcopal resource this book reminds me of, and that is the Forward Day-by-Day offerings, small-format books with daily meditations. Undoubtedly Browning was familiar with these; the day-by-day meditation device is a common one in Christian writing past and present. Browning's book is a good entry into that tradition.

Although these daily meditations are based on the Episcopalian "Book of Common Prayer" they are very universal in scope and should appeal to all faiths.

"A Year of Days with the Book of Common Prayer" written by Bishop Edmond Lee Browning is a lovely addition to your shelf of spiritual books. Bishop Browning, a former presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, writes as if he is speaking to the reader one on one. Each page contains a short

line from the Book of Common Prayer, the prayer book of the Episcopal Church and then a short reflection by Bishop Browning on that topic. I am enjoying starting my day in prayer with the reflections in this book and recommend it. As it is now out of print, I had to buy a used copy. This is definitely a book that should become an e-book and be republished.

As the other reviewers note, the meditations are very insightful and inspiring. The format is very similar to the "Forward Day by Day" devotional guide with which most Episcopalians are familiar. Instead of Bible verses at the top of each day's entry, however, there are short excerpts from the Book of Common Prayer. You can turn to the BCP for the full text of the collects, rituals, and Psalms, but references are scattered throughout the prayer book. I was hoping for something that was a little more of an organized guidebook to the BCP, with the added benefit of devotions.

I bought this book when I heard Bishop Browning had died -and am so glad I did! His deep and gentle reverence and thoughtful reflections on so many areas of life are incredibly moving and his wisdom seems especially timely in these chaotic times. Many of them feel so contemporary! I never met the man but even so, his writing touches me profoundly. Highly recommended and cherished!

What a wonderful way to start the day. Very easy and quick to read, with something to think about.

Since purchasing this book, I've used it first thing every single day with my morning mug of Suisse Mocha! It only takes a minute to read a page, but I find myself reflecting on Bishop Browning's "sharings" throughout the day! My mornings shall, God willing, continue to start with it in hand!

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