

A History of the Book of  
Common Prayer

*1548 - 2019*

# Pre-Reformation

- I Corinthians II
- Sarum Rite
- Gallican Rite (Gelasian Sacramentary)
- Ambrosian Rite
- Various Missals

# 1548 Communion Svc.

- Abp. Thomas Cranmer
- Precursor to the full BCP
- Allowed the priest to Say Mass in English
- Literal translation of the Sarum Rite
  - Roman Breviary of Cardinal Quiñones
  - Hermann von Wied, Archbishop of Cologne

# 1549 Book of Common Prayer

- First Prayer Book of Edward VI
- Act of Conformity
- Mandated its use on Whitsunday, June 9, 1549
- Sarum Rite translated into English

# 1552 Book of Common Prayer

- Second Prayer Book of Edward VI
- Much more Protestant shift in theology
- Total Restructuring of the order of the service
- Mandated use Nov. 1, 1552

# Death of Edward VI

- Queen Mary's reign and return to Catholicism
- BCP outlawed
- Persecution of Puritans

# Queen Elizabeth I

- 1559 Book of Common Prayer
- “Elizabethan Book”
- Elizabethan Settlement
- Modest appeal to both Puritans and Catholics
  - Words of Administration

# 1604 Book of Common Prayer

- Gentle Edit of 1559 Book to further appease Puritans
- Remission of sins in MP and EP
- Lay Baptism was abolished
- Several additional prayers added
- Hampton Court Book



# 1662 Book of Common Prayer

- The Official Prayer Book of the English Church
- Quite Protestant/Reformed in nature
- BCP that was normative in USA prior to the American Revolution
- Masterpiece of English literature

# 1637 Book of Common Prayer (Scottish)

- Much more catholic BCP - closer to 1549 Book
- Used as Communion model for first American BCP
- First edition outside Church of England

# American Prayer Books

‣ 1789

‣ 1892

‣ 1928

‣ “1979”

‣ 2019

# 1789 Book of Common Prayer (American)

- First Book of Common Prayer in the USA
- Closer to Scottish Book of 1637
- Scottish non-jurors and American Apostolic Succession

# 1892 Book of Common Prayer (American)

- Very gentle edit of 1789 Book
- Short life-span (36 years)

# 1928 Book of Common Prayer (American)

- More extensive and “liberal” revision than its predecessors
  - Combined Baptism Service into one (from 3)
- A number of offices removed
  - Prayer to be used at Sea
  - Visitation of prisoners
- Movement of Prayer of Humble Access and Lord’s Prayer to its 1549 position
  - P of HA was prior to the Canon after Preface
  - Lord’s Prayer was after reception

# 1979 “Book of Common Prayer” (American)

- Radical revision of all previous Prayer Books
- Some would argue it is NOT a Book of *Common Prayer*
  - Church of England
    - Book of Alternative Services (1980)
    - Common Worship (2000)
  - Intentional move in a liberal/progressive direction

# 2019 Book of Common Prayer (ACNA)

- Faithful return to historic BCP's
- Contemporary Language
- Two Communion Rites (unfortunately does not fall in line with Common Prayer tradition)
- Revised Psalter