

F O R E W O R D

Since the first English language liturgy, the *Exhortation and Litany* (1544), prayer has been offered to God Almighty in what is commonly termed “Elizabethan English.” Since that time, the Anglican Tradition has maintained use of this particular idiom in the public prayers and rites of the Church. This wholeheartedly patristic practice of hieratic language liturgies has left an undeniable and permanent mark on the hearts of faithful Anglican Christians throughout the world who have been formed in the language of Thomas Cranmer, Miles Coverdale, and the historic Prayer Book tradition of 1549, 1662, 1928, and 1962.

The *Book of Common Prayer* (2019), in the section Concerning the Divine Service of the Church, reads that “any service contained in this Book may have the contemporary idiom of speech conformed to the traditional language (thou, thee, thy, thine, etc.) of earlier Prayer Books.”

This edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* (2019) was composed with the intention of offering a consistently Anglican, historic, and pastorally realistic response to that rubric. The *Book of Common Prayer* (1979), as well as the *Book of Alternative Services* (1985), offered only limited official traditional language

resources, consigning many key rites in the Christian life, such as Baptism, Matrimony, and Ordination, exclusively to the contemporary idiom.

Our guidelines in the composition of this book have been as follows:

1. Where possible, all texts and rubrics will reflect that of the authorized text of the *Book of Common Prayer (2019)*.
2. Where possible, the language found in the historic *Book of Common Prayer (1662)*, or that found in the historic Prayer Book tradition, will be used.
3. Where possible, responses and prayers already in use by traditional language congregations in the Anglican Church in North America will be maintained.

This edition of the *Book of Common Prayer (2019)* is offered to the service of Almighty God with the hope that the language which, for centuries, has shaped and formed Christians in the Anglican Tradition will continue to produce good and faithful servants of Christ.

On behalf of the Traditional Language Sub-committee,
The Very Reverend Marcus Kaiser, Sr.