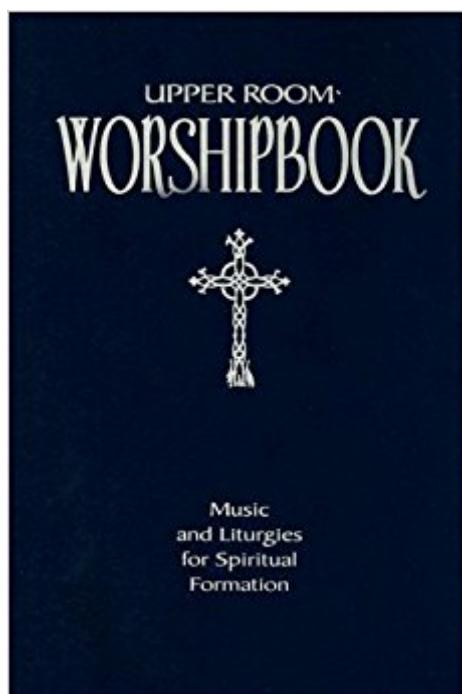


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# Upper Room Worshipbook: Music And Liturgies For Spiritual Formation, Revised Edition



## **Synopsis**

Where denominational hymnals feature beloved, traditional hymns, the Upper Room Worshipbook is a wellspring for newer or previously unpublished ecumenical selections. A rich source of versatile liturgies, psalm settings and prayer songs, this new edition of Upper Room Worshipbook is ideal for use at retreats, with choirs, and by individuals who want to enrich their personal devotional practices. The fresh collection is an essential resource for congregations who are experimenting with classical worship forms such as Evensong or Taizé. "The Worshipbook is a gift to the whole church," writes Jerry Haas, director of The Academy for Spiritual Formation. "Worship as delighting in the love of God is a rare thing today. Perhaps in our haste to create new worship resources, we have neglected the spiritual life of the worshiper! Every page [in the Worshipbook] is for your formation and growth in Christ." Each section contains suggestions for using music and for introducing liturgies into the worship experience of a community. The book features inclusive language and a music index. An Accompanist & Worship Leader Edition is also available.

## **Book Information**

Perfect Paperback: 470 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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## **Customer Reviews**

Elise S. Eslinger is Director of the Institute for Applied Theology at United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH.

The product I'm actually reviewing is the 1985 edition, ISBN 0-8358-0515-8. I have mistakenly attached reviews for the Revised Edition of 2006, ISBN 978-0-8358-9874-4. I ordered without

realizing there were two editions, and did not get what I thought I was getting. These are NOT the same book, but I might as well talk about both of them since my review will likely show up in two places. The new edition is twice the size of the old one, with more hymns and liturgies, and more musical settings of the Psalms (though not "all" the Psalms as one reviewer mistakenly states; there are multiple versions of standard favorites but many of the Psalms are not represented at all in this collection.) Although the revised edition contains more material, a larger proportion of it seems to be printed in a melody-and-lyrics format which is inconvenient for keyboard accompanists. I refuse to shell out for the overpriced "keyboard edition" so I will just have to work around that. Thankfully most of these songs have chord symbols, so it's possible to "fake" a left-hand accompaniment ... or if you have a guitarist available, even better! While playing through some of the material in the first edition, I noticed a weird tendency toward "modern" harmonizations. Several traditional hymn tunes have been re-arranged so they sound "off" and discordant to my ears. Some might appreciate the "spicing up" of that old material, but I consider it a distraction and a detriment. Of more interest to me is the wealth of \*new\* material, both lyrical and musical, which is the bulk of the content of both books. They're great as a supplement to the old hymnal, but they contain enough variety of worship material to make them useful as a primary sourcebook if necessary. Though they originate from a Methodist setting, they are non-denominational.

Finally, an update to the Christian protestant liturgy of Methodists, Anglicans, and community church denominations! For example, it's great to finally see a more Biblical protestant liturgy; pastors don't respond, "You are forgiven," to the congregation confession of sin in this new communion liturgy. The Lord's prayer includes better translations of the Greek, for example, "forgive us our sins" instead of "trespasses" or "debts." New worship songs include intense, meaningful lyrics and good melodies and harmony, while avoiding the gimmicks of "Jesus-lyrics-put-to-70s-love-songs." And all the Psalms are put to song in this neat little volume. It is not well suited for those who worship tradition and custom. But it just may be the 1-stop-hymnal for the emerging community church. With solid, well-glued sturdy binding and thick cover and pages, this handy book will hold up to years of use and abuse in settings from the sanctuary to the old camp meeting.

Fell in love with this little book while attending the Upper Room 2-year Academy for Spiritual Formation #32. Love finding new lyrics to ole, beloved hymns that cross the boundaries of time and place! Love challenging others to look beyond what they have in hand, and reach out for more...

First, I REALLY like the Upper Room Worship Book and purchased the Accompaniment Version because I had read that it included arrangement suggestions, descants etc. I found the selection of descants very scarce and disappointing. Otherwise, there are other offerings that will be helpful in the future, nice review of morning and evening prayer, Psalms and in general, just a really lovely selection of hymns. I just really needed and wanted decants for other instruments and voices and have found this lacking.

## Beautiful music and guidance for services

Everything.

I met Elise Eslinger at a recent convocation and am delighted to have her wonderful worship resource at my disposal now.

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