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Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England comprises

- services and prayers from The Book of Common Prayer;
- alternative services and other material authorized for use until further resolution of the General Synod;
- services which comply with the provisions of A Service of the Word;
- material commended by the House of Bishops; and
- material, the use of which falls within the discretion allowed to the minister under the provisions of Canon B 5.

For details, see page 815.

Canon B 3 provides that decisions as to which of the authorized services are to be used (other than occasional offices) shall be taken jointly by the incumbent and the parochial church council. In the case of occasional offices (other than Confirmation and Ordination), the decision is to be made by the minister conducting the service, subject to the right of any of the persons concerned to object beforehand to the form of service proposed.
The publication of *Common Worship* is an occasion of great significance in the life of the Church of England, because the worship of God is central to the life of his Church.

The forms of worship authorized in the Church of England express our faith and help to create our identity. The Declaration of Assent is placed at the beginning of this volume to remind us of this. When ministers make the Declaration, they affirm their loyalty to the Church of England’s inheritance of faith and accept their share in the responsibility to proclaim the faith ‘afresh in each generation’.

*Common Worship* draws together the rich inheritance of the past and the very best of our contemporary forms of worship. In this volume we bring together the services of *The Book of Common Prayer* as they are used today and newer liturgies in both traditional and contemporary style. *The Book of Common Prayer* remains the permanently authorized provision for public worship in the Church of England, whereas the newer liturgies are authorized until further resolution of the General Synod. This combination of old and new provides for the diverse worshipping needs of our communities, within an ordered structure which affirms our essential unity and common life.

The services provided here are rich and varied. This reflects the multiplicity of contexts in which worship is offered today. They encourage an imaginative engagement in worship, opening the way for people in the varied circumstances of their lives to experience the love of God in Jesus Christ in the life and power of the Holy Spirit. In the worship of God the full meaning and beauty of our humanity is consummated and our lives are opened to the promise God makes for all creation – to transform and renew it in love and goodness.

The publication of these services is a challenge to us. It is a challenge to worship God better and to take the greatest care in preparing and celebrating worship. It is a challenge to draw the whole community of the people we serve into the worship of God. Central to our worship is the proclamation of the one, perfect self-offering of the Son to the Father. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is at the heart of *Common Worship*. 
The Declaration of Assent

The Declaration of Assent is made by deacons, priests and bishops of the Church of England when they are ordained and on each occasion when they take up a new appointment (Canon C 15). Readers and Lay Workers make the declaration, without the words ‘and administration of the sacraments’, when they are admitted and when they are licensed (Canons E 5, E 6 and E 8).

Preface

The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, The Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons. In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making Him known to those in your care?

Declaration of Assent

I, A B, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service which are authorized or allowed by Canon.
For Rules to Order the Christian Year, see page 526.

In the printing of the Calendar, Principal Feasts and other Principal Holy Days are printed in **bold**; Festivals are printed in *roman* typeface; other Sundays and Lesser Festivals are printed in ordinary *roman* typeface, in black. Commemorations are printed in *italics*. 
The Seasons

Advent

The First Sunday of Advent
The Second Sunday of Advent
The Third Sunday of Advent
From 17 December (O Sapientia) begin the eight days of prayer before Christmas Day
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve

Christmas

Christmas Day – 25 December
The First Sunday of Christmas
The Second Sunday of Christmas

The days after Christmas Day until the Epiphany traditionally form a unity of days of special thanksgiving.

Epiphany

The Epiphany – 6 January
The Baptism of Christ – The First Sunday of Epiphany
The Second Sunday of Epiphany
The Third Sunday of Epiphany
The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) – 2 February

Ordinary Time

This begins on the day following the Presentation
The Fifth Sunday before Lent
The Fourth Sunday before Lent
The Third Sunday before Lent
The Second Sunday before Lent
The Sunday next before Lent

Lent

Ash Wednesday
The First Sunday of Lent
The Second Sunday of Lent
The Third Sunday of Lent
The Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday
The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)
Palm Sunday
Monday of Holy Week
Tuesday of Holy Week
Wednesday of Holy Week
Maundy Thursday
Good Friday
Easter Eve

Easter

Easter Day
Monday of Easter Week
Tuesday of Easter Week
Wednesday of Easter Week
Thursday of Easter Week
Friday of Easter Week
Saturday of Easter Week
The Second Sunday of Easter
The Third Sunday of Easter
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Ascension Day
From Friday after Ascension Day begin the nine days of prayer before Pentecost
The Seventh Sunday of Easter – Sunday after Ascension Day

Pentecost (Whit Sunday)
Ordinary Time

This is resumed on the Monday following the Day of Pentecost

Trinity Sunday
The Thursday after Trinity Sunday may be observed as
The Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion
( Corpus Christi )
The First Sunday after Trinity
The Second Sunday after Trinity
The Third Sunday after Trinity
The Fourth Sunday after Trinity
The Fifth Sunday after Trinity
The Sixth Sunday after Trinity
The Seventh Sunday after Trinity
The Eighth Sunday after Trinity
The Ninth Sunday after Trinity
The Tenth Sunday after Trinity
The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity
The Last Sunday after Trinity

dedication Festival – The First Sunday in October or The Last Sunday after Trinity, if date unknown

All Saints’ Day – 1 November
The Sunday between 30 October and 5 November may be kept as All Saints’ Sunday or as:
The Fourth Sunday before Advent
The Third Sunday before Advent
The Second Sunday before Advent
Christ the King – The Sunday next before Advent

Holy Days

For the key to the typography, see page 1.

January

1 The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

2 Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops,
Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389

2 Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833

2 Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945

6 The Epiphany

10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645

11 Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915

12 Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167

12 Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689

13 Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367

13 Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603

13 George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691

17 Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356

17 Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932

18–25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

19 Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095

20 Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349

21 Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304

22 Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304

24 Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622

25 The Conversion of Paul

26 Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul

28 Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274

30 Charles, King and Martyr, 1649

31 John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888
February

1 Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c.525
2 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
3 Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865
4 Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189
5 The Martyrs of Japan, 1597
6 Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543
7 Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869 and 885
8 Valentine, Martyr at Rome, c.269
9 Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden, 1045
10 Thomas Bray, Priest, Founder of the SPCK and the SPG, 1730
11 Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr, 1977
12 Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155
13 George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633

Alternative dates
Matthias may be celebrated on 24 February instead of 14 May.

March

1 David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c.601
2 Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672
3 Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 203
4 Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910
5 Felix, Bishop, Apostle to the East Angles, 647
6 Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, Priest, Poet, 1929
7 Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland, c.460
8 Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, Teacher of the Faith, 386
9 Joseph of Nazareth
10 Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687
11 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr, 1556
12 Walter Hilton of Thurgarton, Augustinian Canon, Mystic, 1396
13 Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980
14 The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
15 Harriet Monsell, Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, 1883
16 John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631

Alternative dates
Chad may be celebrated with Cedd on 26 October instead of 2 March.
Cuthbert may be celebrated on 4 September instead of 20 March.
April

1 Frederick Denison Maurice, Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1872
9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Martyr, 1945
10 William Law, Priest, Spiritual Writer, 1761
10 William of Ockham, Friar, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1347
11 George Augustus Selwyn, first Bishop of New Zealand, 1878
16 Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess, 1923
19 Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1012
21 Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1109
23 George, Martyr, Patron of England, c.304
24 Mellitus, Bishop of London, first Bishop at St Paul’s, 624
25 Mark the Evangelist
27 Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894
28 Peter Chanel, Missionary in the South Pacific, Martyr, 1841
29 Catherine of Siena, Teacher of the Faith, 1380
30 Pandita Mary Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures, 1922

May

1 Philip and James, Apostles
2 Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373
4 English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era
8 Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417
14 Matthias the Apostle
16 Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877
19 Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life, 988
20 Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804
21 Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330
24 John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788
25 The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735
25 Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709
26 Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605
26 John Calvin, Reformer, 1564
26 Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians, Spiritual Guide, 1595
28 Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089
30 Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906
30 Joan of Arc, Visionary, 1431
30 Apolo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Central Africa, 1933
31 The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Alternative dates
Matthias may be celebrated on 24 February instead of 14 May.
The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth may be celebrated on 2 July instead of 31 May.
June

1 Justin, Martyr at Rome, c.165
3 The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886 and 1978
4 Petroc, Abbot of Padstow, 6th century
5 Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754
6 Ini Kopuria, Founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 1945
8 Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Nonjuror, Hymn Writer, 1711
9 Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597
9 Ephrem of Syria, Deacon, Hymn Writer, Teacher of the Faith, 373
11 Barnabas the Apostle
14 Richard Baxter, Puritan Divine, 1691
15 Evelyn Underhill, Spiritual Writer, 1941
16 Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1253
16 Joseph Butler, Bishop of Durham, Philosopher, 1752
17 Samuel and Henrietta Barnett, Social Reformers, 1913 and 1936
18 Bernard Mizeki, Apostle of the MaShona, Martyr, 1896
19 Sundar Singh of India, Sadhu (holy man), Evangelist, Teacher of the Faith, 1929
22 Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c.250
23 Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, c.678
24 The Birth of John the Baptist
27 Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 444
28 Irenæus, Bishop of Lyons, Teacher of the Faith, c.200
29 Peter and Paul, Apostles

Alternative dates
Peter the Apostle may be celebrated alone, without Paul, on 29 June.

July

1 Henry, John, and Henry Venn the younger, Priests, Evangelical Divines, 1797, 1813 and 1873
3 Thomas the Apostle
6 Thomas More, Scholar, and John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs, 1535
11 Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, Father of Western Monasticism, c.550
14 John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866
15 Swithun, Bishop of Winchester, c.862
15 Bonaventure, Friar, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 1274
16 Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury, 1099
18 Elizabeth Ferard, first Deaconess of the Church of England, Founder of the Community of St Andrew, 1883
19 Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, and his sister Macrina, Deaconess, Teachers of the Faith, c.394 and c.379
20 Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th century
20 Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566
22 Mary Magdalene
23 Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373
25 James the Apostle
26 Anne and Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
27 Brooke Foss Westcott, Bishop of Durham, Teacher of the Faith, 1901
29 Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of Our Lord
30 William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, 1833
31 Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556

Alternative dates
The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth may be celebrated on 2 July instead of 31 May.
Thomas the Apostle may be celebrated on 21 December instead of 3 July.
Thomas Becket may be celebrated on 7 July instead of 29 December.
August

4 Jean-Baptiste Vianney, Curé d’Ars, Spiritual Guide, 1859
5 Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642
6 The Transfiguration of our Lord
7 John Mason Neale, Priest, Hymn Writer, 1866
8 Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221
9 Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers’ Union, 1921
10 Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258
11 Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Minoresses (Poor Clares), 1253
11 John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890
13 Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor, Teacher of the Faith, 1667
13 Florence Nightingale, Nurse, Social Reformer, 1910
13 Octavia Hill, Social Reformer, 1912
14 Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941
15 The Blessed Virgin Mary
20 Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher of the Faith, 1153
20 William and Catherine Booth, Founders of the Salvation Army, 1912 and 1890
24 Bartholomew the Apostle
27 Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387
28 Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430
29 The Beheading of John the Baptist
30 John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688
31 Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651

Alternative dates
The Blessed Virgin Mary may be celebrated on 8 September instead of 15 August.

September

1 Giles of Provence, Hermit, c.710
2 The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 and 1942
3 Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 604
4 Birinus, Bishop of Dorchester (Oxon), Apostle of Wessex, 650
6 Allen Gardiner, Missionary, Founder of the South American Mission Society, 1851
8 The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
9 Charles Fuge Lowder, Priest, 1880
13 John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, Teacher of the Faith, 407
14 Holy Cross Day
15 Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258
16 Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c.432
16 Edward Bouverie Pusey, Priest, Tractarian, 1882
17 Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179
19 Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690
20 John Coleridge Patteson, First Bishop of Melanesia, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871
21 Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
25 Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, Spiritual Writer, 1626
25 Sergei of Radonezh, Russian Monastic Reformer, Teacher of the Faith, 1392
26 Wilson Carlile, Founder of the Church Army, 1942
27 Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of the Mission (Lazarists), 1660
29 Michael and All Angels
30 Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, Teacher of the Faith, 420

Alternative dates
Cuthbert may be celebrated on 4 September instead of 20 March.
October

1 Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533
2 Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885
4 Francis of Assisi, Friar, Deacon, Founder of the Friars Minor, 1226
6 William Tyndale, Translator of the Scriptures,
   Reformation Martyr, 1536
9 Denys, Bishop of Paris, and his Companions, Martyrs, c.250
9 Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln, Philosopher, Scientist, 1253
10 Paulinus, Bishop of York, Missionary, 644
10 Thomas Traherne, Poet, Spiritual Writer, 1674
11 Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675
11 James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century
12 Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709
12 Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845
12 Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915
13 Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066
15 Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582
16 Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, and Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Worcester,
   Reformation Martyrs, 1555
17 Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c.107
18 Luke the Evangelist
19 Henry Martyn, Translator of the Scriptures,
   Missionary in India and Persia, 1812
25 Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome, c.287
26 Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar, 899
26 Cedd, Abbot of Lastingham, Bishop of the East Saxons, 664
28 Simon and Jude, Apostles
29 James Hannington, Bishop of Eastern Equatorial Africa,
   Martyr in Uganda, 1885
31 Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546

Alternative dates
Chad may be celebrated with Cedd on 26 October
instead of 2 March.

November

1 All Saints’ Day
2 Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day)
3 Richard Hooker, Priest, Anglican Apologist,
   Teacher of the Faith, 1600
3 Martin of Porres, Friar, 1639
6 Leonard, Hermit, 6th century
6 William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1944
7 Willibrord of York, Bishop, Apostle of Frisia, 739
8 The Saints and Martyrs of England
9 Margery Kempe, Mystic, c.1440
10 Leo the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher of the Faith, 461
11 Martin, Bishop of Tours, c.397
13 Charles Simeon, Priest, Evangelical Divine, 1836
14 Samuel Seabury, first Anglican Bishop in North America, 1796
16 Margaret, Queen of Scotland, Philanthropist,
   Reformer of the Church, 1093
16 Edmund Rich of Abingdon, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1240
17 Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, 1200
18 Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess of Thuringia, Philanthropist, 1231
19 Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680
19 Mechtild, Béguine of Magdeburg, Mystic, 1280
20 Edmund, King of the East Angles, Martyr, 870
20 Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a Restorer of the Religious Life
   in the Church of England, 1876
22 Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c.230
23 Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c.100
25 Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr, 4th century
25 Isaac Watts, Hymn Writer, 1748
29 Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work
   of the Church
30 Andrew the Apostle
December

1 Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1916
3 Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552
4 John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher of the Faith, c.749
4 Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637
6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326
7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397
8 The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
13 Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304
13 Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784
14 John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591
17 O Sapientia
17 Eglantine Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of ‘Save The Children’, 1928
24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day
26 Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr
27 John, Apostle and Evangelist
28 The Holy Innocents
29 Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170
31 John Wyclif, Reformer, 1384

The Date of Easter and Other Variable Dates

Alternative dates

Thomas the Apostle may be celebrated on 21 December instead of 3 July.

Thomas Becket may be celebrated on 7 July instead of 29 December.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ash Wednesday</th>
<th>Easter Day</th>
<th>Ascension Day</th>
<th>Pentecost (Whit Sunday)</th>
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