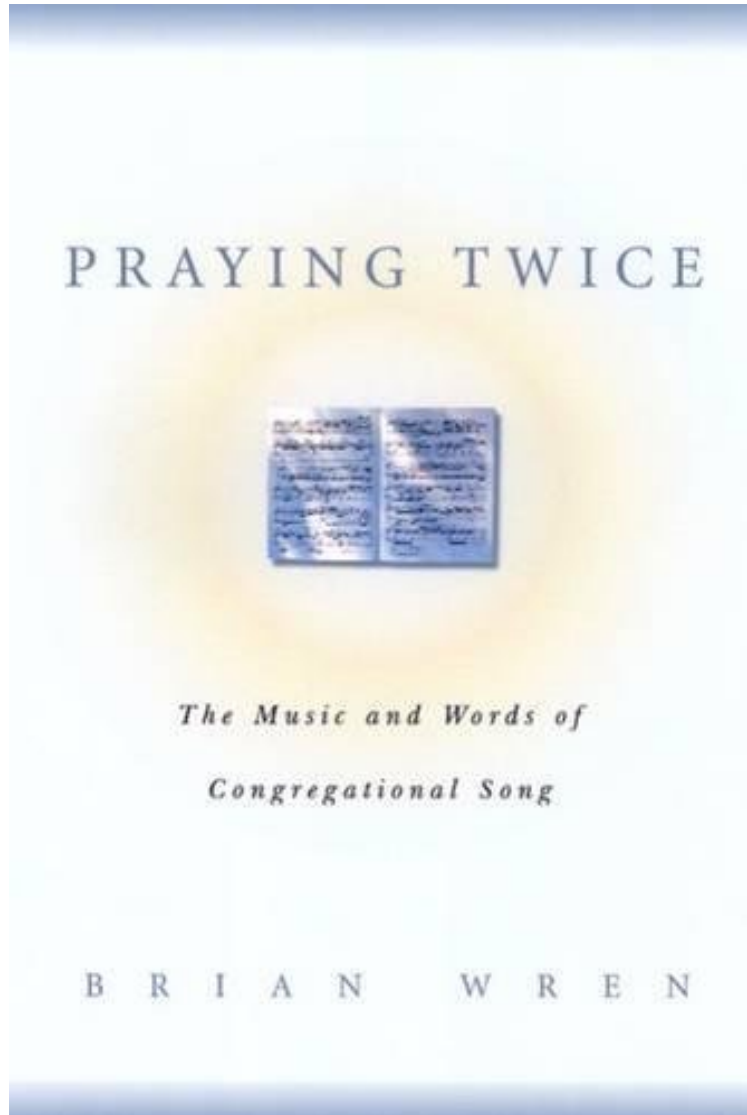


Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song

Brian Wren

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Brian Wren : Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Book Review By Rebecca H. Mitchell Excellent book. Really lots of good information. This is a real keeper.. Helps me with choir; church. Thanks so much. Good day. 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Useful in proposing a particular view By M. J. Smith Brian Wren is an exponent of a particular approach to congregational hymns is firmly rooted in his Reformed background and related understanding

of the function of religious services. This underlies his concern regarding inclusive language, multicultural usage, social justice issues etc. From this viewpoint he intelligently discusses the role of hymns in worship, appropriate language including revision of old hymns, selection and performance of hymns ... While my understanding of worship, historical continuity etc. differs from Wren's, this volume is an interesting and articulate expression of a particular point of view - a view important for the understanding of contemporary mainline Protestant hymnody. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregational Song By Barbara Elizabeth Hamm Brian Wren accomplishes something that is difficult to do in one volume: both a broad survey of the history of congregational song and an in-depth discussion of the issues involved. Wren is thoroughly knowledgeable of both. One may agree or disagree with his conclusions at many points, but both his conclusions and the reasons for them are made quite clear. This book is the first that got me to thinking about praise music as something that I am really going to have to come to terms with as a church musician. He says the music is engaging and that what we need are church musicians to write lyrics that go beyond the inadequate ones of many of the current popular praise choruses. The book will both enlighten and stimulate one's thinking.

In this in depth look at hymns, Brian Wren explores the theological significance of congregational song, asks how music has meaning for its singers, and considers the importance of contemporary worship music. He argues that a hymn is a complex art form, deserving of recognition and study for its contributions to worship, education, and pastoral care.

From the Author This book took several years to write, as I traveled throughout the UK and North America following a freelance ministry relating to hymnody and congregational song. Periodically my spouse would ask, with a smile, "When are you going to finish this stupid book?" Hence the abbreviation, TSB, on the dedication page. I believe this work explores the limited area in which I have expertise, and hope that it has proven to be readable and useful. The opening chapter - historical glimpses - was added at my editor's suggestion. The chapters are - 1. "Through All the Changing Scenes of Life": Glimpses of Congregational Song [historical portraits starting from 1970 and going back in time] 2. "Rescue the Holy Pleasure": Why Congregational Song is Indispensable. 3. "A More Profound Alleluia": Encouraging the People's Song 4. "Some Demand a Driving Beat": Contemporary Worship Music. 5. "And Speak Some Boundless Thing": Assessing the Lyrics of Congregational Song 6. "Sing them Over Again to Me": Refrains, Choruses, and Other People's Songs. 7. "Captured by Gender": Chant and Ritual Song. 8. "Such a Feast as Mends in Length": Hymns as Poems of Faith. 9. "To Me, to all, Thy Bowels Move": Why Do They Keep Changing the Good Old Hymns? 10. "Echoes of the Gospel": How Hymns Do Theology. About the Author Brian Wren is Professor Emeritus of Worship at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. He is a well-known hymn writer and the author of Praying Twice: The Music and Words of Congregation Song, published by WJK.