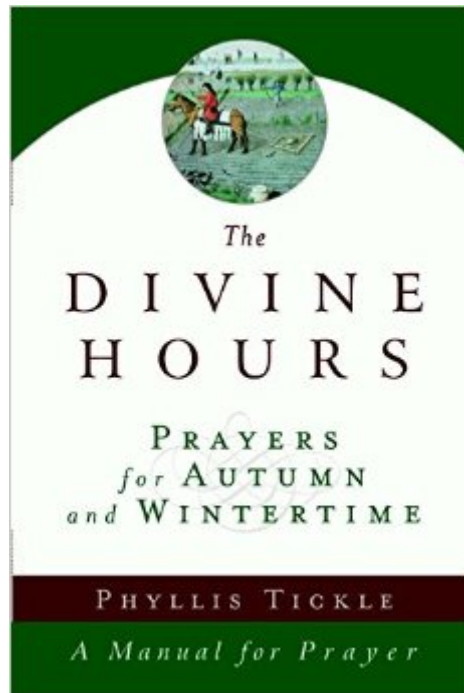


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The Divine Hours (Volume Two): Prayers For Autumn And Wintertime: A Manual For Prayer



Synopsis

The second volume in a trilogy of prayer manuals compiled by Publishers Weekly religion editor Phyllis Tickle as a contemporary Book of Hours to guide Christians gently yet authoritatively through the daily offices. The Divine Hours is the first major literary and liturgical reworking of the sixth-century Benedictine Rule of fixed-hour prayer. This beautifully conceived and thoroughly modern three-volume guide will appeal to the theological novice as well as to the ecclesiastical sophisticate. Making primary use of the Book of Common Prayer and the writings of the Church Fathers, The Divine Hours is also a companion to the New Jerusalem Bible, from which it draws its Scripture readings. The trilogy blends prayer and praise in a way that, while extraordinarily fresh, respects and builds upon the ancient wisdom of Christianity. The second book in the set, Prayers for Autumn and Wintertime, provides prayers, psalms, and readings for these two festive seasons. Compact, it is perfect for those seeking greater spiritual depth. As a contemporary Book of Hours, The Divine Hours: Prayers for Autumn and Wintertime heralds a renewal of the tradition of disciplined daily prayer, and gives those already using the first volume the continuity they are seeking. The series will culminate in a third volume for springtime, completing the liturgical and calendar year with the offices for every day.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tickle has done a great service for everyone who practices daily devotions. Along with the "Prayers for Summertime" and "Prayers for Springtime," this book provides everything one needs to pray one or all of the Daily Offices (the night prayers of Matins, Laud, and Prime are contained in her "The

Night Offices"). The book is broken into chapters by month, with daily Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, and Vespers. Compline is the same from week to week within a given month, so Tickle provides the seven days of Compline readings at the back of each month. The Introduction also includes a history of the Divine Hours and some instruction in how to use the prayers. She encourages readers to chant or sing the psalms or prayers when appropriate, but affirms that silent reading, chanting, or singing is a matter of personal preferences. Each day's Offices follow the structure of the Book of Common Prayer, although the old familiar Invitatories and Responses are replaced by other varied, often less-familiar, lines from Scripture. The readings are usually biblical, but may also be from Christian sources. All-in-all, each office takes only a few minutes to read to oneself, and is varied, accessible, and enjoyable. The book, itself, is easy to use (although a built-in bookmark or two would be great), the type is easy to read, and it's not so heavy I'm going to mind packing it for a trip (although it's not a small book, by any means). I highly recommend this book and its companions for the Divine Office beginner or regular practitioner. Those new to daily prayer may also enjoy Brook's *The School of Prayer: An Introduction to the Divine Office for All Christians*.

The Divine Hours was recommended in Philip Yancy's book, "Prayer". The daily readings are mostly from Scripture but has prayers from early Church Fathers and the Book of Common Prayer. After reading each day's prayers, praying became a joy instead of chore. I bought all three books!

I bought this book to help get me through the cold dark winter. It was in my recommendations from but I knew nothing about what the Daily Offices were or what a Compline was. When I got the book back in October I just started doing the readings four times a day. I found that this book is so much more than I expected. I have tried different forms of devotions in my life but this is the first that I actually look forward to reading. The combination of Psalms, prayers, hymns, and other verses from the Bible helps me to center my thoughts on things that really matter throughout the day. Each reading is only a page or two long and takes maybe 10 minutes but each one has a powerful impact on my day and on my life. Although I planned to use this method of devotions just through the winter I have now added the springtime and summer versions to my wish list.

The page headers and footers are missing from the Kindle version, making the Kindle version almost unusable. You simply have no way of knowing where you are. Given the work that Tickle put into this series, it is a shame that she would so spit on her memory with this unusable mess.

The actual books that can be bought have Date references, however, the Kindle Version does not. If you miss a few days, it's just about impossible to get to the right reading -- Very disappointing. Spend \$5.00 more and get the book.

This review is one star for the KINDLE version. I have the hard cover copy and love this book and use it and the other Divine Hours books in my prayer life. I decided to try the Kindle version since it would be easier to carry in my purse. While it is divided by month, the Kindle version doesn't indicate what day of the week or week you are on. So I decided to return the Kindle and use my hard copy. If this gets fixed I would repurchase the Kindle version.

I use to use a prayer book as a youngster but had gotten away from that habit during my adult years. I recently got interested again in the daily rhythm of praying the hours with the "Church". I started reading several guides on the purpose for praying the hours and why we as Protestants have lost this practice and why we should pick it up again. I became convinced to try. I have now been using Phyllis Tickle's books (3 volumes) for two years. I thought it time to give a review since I have tried it and found it helpful. The Divine Hours by Tickle are very well laid out for the protestant layman and clergy alike. They are not hard to understand or navigate (some older prayer books, especially Catholic ones are hard to use) and give you a complete guide for being able to pray three times daily plus at bedtime. You will find that it only takes about 10 minutes to go through the guide each time. But during that you will rediscover the liturgical roots that many of us grew up in. You will also find some comfort in knowing that you are not alone in praying at these times of the day, thousands if not millions around the world are practicing the same rhythm of prayer. When you finish the 10 minutes of prompting through this guide book you can continue on with praying for the things on your heart, or for others that you have requests from. The main purpose of the guide books are to give you a set of psalms, prayers and liturgy that will help bring you before the throne of God in an attitude of prayer and thanksgiving. I have enjoyed each of the three volumes and would highly recommend them to anyone wanting to learn more about the office of praying the hours. Enjoy!

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