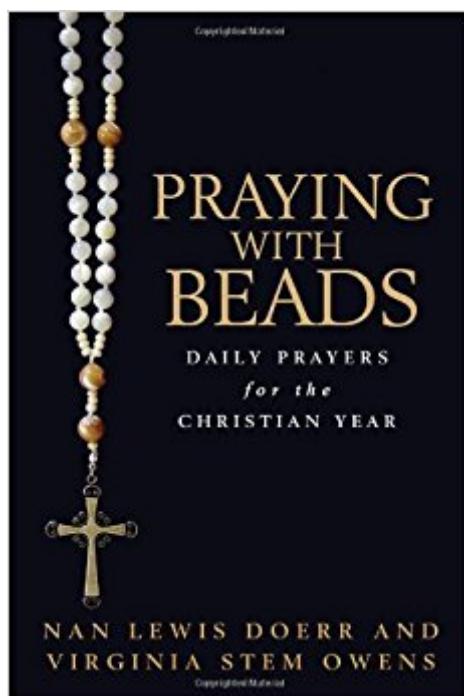


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Praying With Beads: Daily Prayers For The Christian Year



Synopsis

Prayer is essential to the Christian life, bonding us to God. Yet we find it difficult in our frenetic world to keep our minds focused for long. All kinds of external noise and inner voices clamor for our attention. How can we slow down and quiet down so as to truly wait on the Lord? Nan Lewis Doerr and Virginia Stem Owens offer a solution that calls on the physical senses to break through to the spiritual -- praying with beads. The use of prayer beads, which has a long history in practical spirituality, is now becoming more widespread among Protestants. Doerr and Owens here show readers how to use what have become known as Anglican or Christian prayer beads. Readers can then use the basic prayer structure provided by the beads to pray their way through each day -- morning, noon, and night -- and through the church year. These prayers -- a thoughtfully chosen combination of quotations from Scripture and gleanings from the Book of Common Prayer -- can be enhanced and enriched by the mindful and meditative practice of using beads. Doerr and Owens encourage readers to use beads as "something to hang onto, a lifeline to the Presence that lies, often hidden or forgotten, at the center of our lives." Praying with beads, as outlined and embodied in this little book, has the potential to transform one's prayer life.

Book Information

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Eerdmans; 7/29/07 edition (August 28, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0802827276

ISBN-13: 978-0802827272

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.3 x 7.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 63 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #145,047 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Anglican #35 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Worship & Devotion > Prayerbooks #176 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Worship & Devotion > Prayerbooks

Customer Reviews

Grand Rapids Press "The daily prayers here work for any person eager to deepen their prayer life."Phyllis Tickle — author of The Divine Hours "This is an important book in the original sense of that adjective: it is a book that imports to the church something that was lost in

the Reformation and has been sorely missed during the centuries since. Protestant Christians, whether liturgical or not, will find here not only a missing part of their heritage, but also much counsel and instruction for their future practice of the faith."Lauren F. Winner • author of *A Girl Meets God* "Praying with beads has been a terrifically important practice to me over the last few years. How thrilled I am to discover Nan Doerr and Virginia Stem Owens's wonderful introduction to this age-old practice. I know this book will shape my own devotional life, and I am excited about the many people who will discover prayer beads through these pages."

Virginia Stem Owens is a writer and former director of the Milton Centre at Newman University, Wichita, Kansas. She is now a member of the editorial board of Books and Culture.

As an Anglican who had leaned towards the use of beads and mantras in the Buddhist style, I was pleasantly surprised to learn of growth of the Anglican rosary and find this book that teaches you how to use it. The book offers prayers for morning, noon and night of every week in the Anglican calendar, as well as prayers for days of particular importance (Good Friday, Ascension Day, etc). But what I like most of all is that the author, although having carefully picked Bible verses that resonate with a particular season, encourages readers to choose and use those prayers that speak to them at any given time. Of course, prayer should come naturally and I would have done that anyhow...and I don't even always use this book to pray. But I appreciate that the author is guiding people to pray in a way that is meaningful to them and not use the rosary for mindless repetition. I purchased another copy for a family member and absolutely love this little book.

This review is for the Kindle version of this book. The book itself is very good. The historical information is very interesting. I would have liked to see a pattern for the prayer beads themselves, however simple, in the book. There is one illustration of a set of prayer beads in there, but no actual instructions included. The content of the book is very good. I am considering a purchase of the paperback version of this book also. As far as the Kindle version goes, there seems to be a small glitch in the one I have. Sometimes, when I hit the back button (there are times when you will have to go back and forth), instead of going back one page, it goes back to the previous week. Sometimes two weeks. I have never had this happen with any other Kindle book, so I am fairly certain it's a glitch in this book. Other than that, it's great.

I recently learned about using beads for prayer, as a Protestant, and was intrigued by the idea.

Doerr has provided a prayer guide keyed to the liturgical calendar. The first time I used the beads that are described in the book, I was able to pray for 25 minutes without having my mind drift all over creation. For those Christians who are searching for something to help them keep their mind focused as they pray, rather than end up doing shopping/to-do lists, give this prayer method a try.

This is a fantastic book for any protestants/evangelicals who are interested in praying with beads. The authors' provide a thorough and biblically sound basis for bead use in prayer. I am new to the practice and had no expectations or preconceived notions before starting. To me, prayer with beads creates a deep connection with Christ through meaningful meditation on scripture. I've already bought more copies of this book to give to friends. I extend my gratitude to the authors!

As a new Episcopalian/Anglican, and new to praying with beads, I appreciate the easy instructions and various prayers to use throughout the year. This really helps when you just don't know quite what to say/pray on your own. The book is also small enough to hold in one hand and read the prayers while using your beads in the other.

This little book provides a set of prayers based on the liturgical seasons. Each page is for a week or particular feast day. And each page has morning, noon and evening prayers. It is used at my Episcopal church by the weekly prayer bead ministry group. We use the short prayers responsively, with a leader beginning each prayer and pausing for the group to finish as we repeat each one as we pray around our beads. It would be equally useful for individual prayer.

This is a great book which begins with a brief history of prayer beads and christian prayer bead in particular. The structure of christian prayer beads is then reviewed before getting into the meat of the book which is prayers for the year. Three variations of daily prayers are given: morning, noon and evening, so you can formalize your prayer day. But this in no way means that you have to follow the recommended prayer outline; you're free to mix it up or create your own. I find this book a great aid to my prayer life and has deepened my relationship with God.

I converted to Episcopalianism from Catholicism, so I was already familiar with prayer beads. This book shows how versatile and seasonal the Anglican rosary can be. At the same time, that variability can sometimes be a bad thing at times. The Roman Catholic rosary has a standard set of prayers and meditations, which means that if you're in need and want to reach for something,

you've got it memorized already and don't need a book to go with it. It means that if you go to pray it with some other people you are all going to know the words already. I think this book would have benefitted from having a non-liturgical-year specific version that could be memorized for those moments when you're just too stressed or lost to look up what the seasonal variant is. Since you do need to reference this book to know what the prayers are it would have been better if it had been spiral bound so it would lay open better. That being said, these are all beautiful sets of prayers and it's a good resource for a Christian wanting to get some instruction on using their beads. I would like to add that the traditional rosary is older than the reformation and that one might want to consider its use even if one is not Roman Catholic (if you don't object to asking for the prayers of saints as part of your piety.)

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