

God's blessing and God's guidance. Then take your part all through the service. With a pure heart and humble voice speak out when your prayer book bids you. Follow your minister with mind and heart through all the prayers, and then at the conclusion of each, with a hearty Amen, stamp your own mark upon it, that, as yours, it may go up to the ear of God, and find acceptance there and bring you down a blessing. The more you strive to follow out this course, the less will your thought be distracted from the holy purpose for which Christian men should meet in God's house, and the more will you be benefitted by the service. The very habit of always responding will keep your attention fixed on those parts which fall to the minister in order that you may be ready to respond promptly and intelligently when your time comes. Thus the beautiful liturgy of the church will be more firmly fixed in your minds, and will be more likely to influence your lives, entering into you and becoming a part of your very being.

Finally I would say the interest of each man's neighbor calls upon us all to do as is suggested on these cards: "To join heartily, reverently, audibly, and unitedly in all the responses and in the chants and hymns. As a congregation we exert an influence either for good or evil on every stranger that comes within these walls. And each member of this congregation exerts a like influence on those around who see his conduct here. If a stranger come into church, say one of that sadly numerous class that seldom enters a church door, and see a whole congregation, or the majority, thrown into the most careless attitudes, and with an expression of listlessness on every face, while the service drags heavily on for the lack of a hearty response, he passes judgement upon that congregation. He says and rightly too that there is very little real worship there. And if this were all there would be but little harm done by those careless worshippers except to themselves. But this is not all. It is but a step from this judgement to the sweeping one which men are too apt to pass and which embraces the whole system of Christianity in the condemnation which an insincere profession of it merits. Then let us for the sake of our fellowmen enter heartily into our services. Doing so we shall recommend to others our system of worship, which has no superior, if any equal, as a means of rendering that united public worship which is the natural consequence of a belief in "one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and father of us all."

Oh! let us use our prayer book as a precious help to prayer. Let us use it in such a way as to benefit ourselves and also in such a way as to allow no one an opportunity of pointing to it as a drag upon the wheels of true devotion. If our services are cold it is not because we have a prayer book, but because we neglect the prayer book that we have.