

"the Apostles doctrine" and "Form of Sound Words" in the Creeds, the Apostolic Weekly Offertory, the Breaking of Bread, and "*the Prayers*,"—the Supplications, Prayers, Intercessions, and Thanksgivings. Well may they be called "*the Prayers*," for they are truly *the* old Prayers of the Church; how old we do not know, for the origin of the most of them is lost in the distance of time. "*The Prayers*," the matchless prayers, which are not of the earth, earthy, but heavenly; meet at once for the lips of sin-stained but penitent men, and for the ears of the Awful Holiness and Majesty of God.

Again, then, I say, let us thank God who has given and preserved to our use that priceless Book of Common Prayer. Let us begin to be ashamed of our ignorance of it, and our coldness and indifference to it; and especially that we ever listened with patience and calmness while it was reviled and traduced by ignorant and unreasonable men. Let us study it that we may be able to commend its excellence and beauty to others, as well as by its means to purify and elevate our own hearts. Never let our lips be closed when it is our part to join in it in this House, nor our hearts cold and wandering when God and His dear Son are here to accept and answer its "prayers and praises, intercessions and giving of thanks." But let us remember that this House is the *House* of Prayer, as our Liturgy is the *Book* of Prayer, and as God is the *Hearer* of Prayer. For *Prayer* is