

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 41. October 06, 2019. Proper 22

The Book of Common Prayer.

No doubt you at the 9:30 service have noticed that we are using a new service booklet this morning. It is not meant to replace any of the booklets currently in use but rather to supplement them. The difference is that this one is based solely on the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church of the Philippines – as you will see: except for a some changes in the order of things and a couple of extra prayers, there are no major changes. The booklet itself is designed for use in all seasons at the discretion of the rector and also whenever the Bishop presides at our Eucharist.

You will also notice as we go through today that most of the priest's parts have been omitted. This is both to save paper and to allow for flexibility in the choice, for example, one of the five Eucharistic Prayers, and other seasonal variations. Those parts will if possible be included in the projection and hopefully clearly audible. If there are problems with this, please do let me know.

The use of service booklets came about I guess to help people, especially newcomers and visitors who might – no, definitely *would* – find navigating the BCP a challenge. That is probably a good thing, though it has resulted in a growing neglect of the book and its contents, which is a pity since it contains far more than just the order for the Eucharist, and has been the foundation of Anglican spiritual life for centuries. There is much in it that is useful for private or family devotions, and it used to be something that every Anglican or Episcopalian just had as a matter of course. It also used to provided unique way to make contact with visitors and newcomers. In the parishes I was familiar with as a young man, it was an unwritten rule that the moment you saw someone obviously fumbling with the prayer book you make a beeline for them and helped them make sense of it. I remember my parents – and others – saying how looked-after they felt on their first few exploratory visits to an Anglican church precisely because of that and what a positive impression that left with them. And, in my parents' case at least, it worked and here I am!

Any comments on the booklet will be welcome. And if anyone interested getting a copy of the Filipino BCP itself, do let me know.