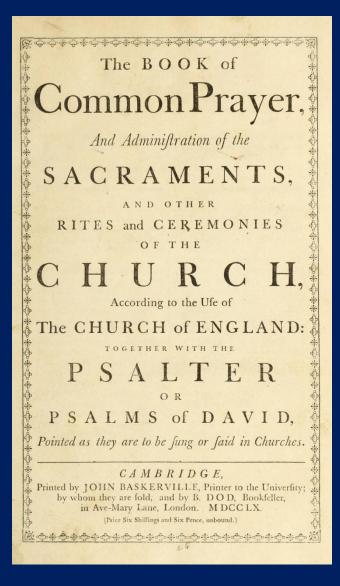
The Book of Common Prayer, the text used in every Episcopal congregation, published in 1549 in the reign of Edward VI, was a product of the English Reformation following the break with Rome.

Tyndall and Coverdale translated the 1<sup>st</sup> version of the Bible in English, printed in 1526.





Traditional English Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian prayer books have borrowed from the Book of Common Prayer and the marriage and burial rites - Wikipedia

## Let's make something clear from the start – <u>We</u> don't need the Book of Common Prayer

2Pe 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

2Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, (17) that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

"This week (July 3, 2018), the church is debating whether to overhaul that prayer book — in large part to make clear that God doesn't have a gender.

"As long as 'men' and 'God' are in the same category, our work toward equity will not just be incomplete. I honestly think it won't matter in some ways," said the Rev. Wil Gafney, a professor of the Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Texas who is on the committee recommending a change to the gendered language in the prayer book." Wash Post 7/3/18 p c1

BDB Definition: yârê' 1) to fear, revere, be afraid 1a) (Qal); 1a1) to fear, be afraid; 1a2) to stand in awe of, be awed; 1a3) to fear, reverence, honour, respect; 1b) (Niphal); 1b1) to be fearful, be dreadful, be feared; 1b2) to cause astonishment and awe, be held in awe; 1b3) to inspire reverence or godly fear or awe; 1c) (Piel) to make afraid, terrify

I would like to point out, the Washington Post called her "Rev.", not me.

Ps111.9 ... holy and reverend is his name. (ASV, KJV)

Psa 111:9... Holy and awesome is his name! (NASV)

The Hebrew word used here is yârê' and occurs in 332 verses, 334 times. Most often as "fear" or "afraid".

We are simply brethren and I hope no one is afraid of me. Mt 20.20-28

## Why don't we let God define what He means using male and female.

Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (27) God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. NASB

Gen 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

'âdâm H120 BDB Definition: 1) man, mankind; 1a) man, human being; 1b) man, mankind (much more frequently intended sense in OT); 1c) Adam, first man; Part of Speech: noun masculine

Gen 2:22 And the LORD God fashioned into a woman ['ishshâh] the rib which He had taken from the man ['âdâm], and brought her to the man ['âdâm]. 23 And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

1802 נשׁים / אשׁה 'ishshâh / nâshîym

BDB Definition: 1) woman, wife, female; 1a)

woman (opposite of man); 1b) wife (woman
married to a man); 1c) female (of animals)

1d) each, every (pronoun); Part of Speech: noun
feminine

God created gender after he created man.

As you think about reproduction, there are plants and animals that reproduce asexually.

Man is not among those, but reproduces sexually.

God created it that way.

You may not like it, but God did.

## God knows the difference between male and female – He made both!

Gen 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

There are a lot of atheists in the world today and there are a lot of people who claim they believe the Bible.

One thing is sure! People who believe in the Bible are not transgenders or homosexuals or lesbians.

They are not "believers."

Gafney says that when she preaches, she sometimes changes the words of the Book of Common Prayer, even though Episcopal priests aren't formally allowed to do so. Sometime she switches a word like "King" to a gender-neutral term like "Ruler" or "Creator." Sometimes she uses "She" instead of "He." Sometimes, she sticks with the masculine tradition. "'Our Father,' I won't fiddle with that," she said, invoking the beginning of the Lord's Prayer that

Remember, we are talking about the Episcopal church, not the church of Christ, here. — unless you find someone with "Church of Christ" over the door and who don't know what one is.

Remember, a building is just that, a building.

A church is an assembly of people.

The church of Christ is those who have been redeemed by the blood of the lamb, based on their willingness to obey the Word of God.

## "When she preaches"

1Ti 3:14-15 I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, (15) if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and support of the truth.

1Ti 2:11 Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. (12) I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

Where? No women preachers in God's church!

"Switching to gender-neutral language is the most commonly mentioned reason to make the change, but many stakeholders in the church want other revisions. There are advocates for adding language about a Christian's duty to conserve the Earth; for adding a liturgical ceremony to celebrate a transgender person's adoption of a new name; for adding same-sex marriage ceremonies to the liturgy, since the church has been performing such weddings for years; for updating the calendar of saints to include important figures named as saints since 1979." -- WP 7/3/18

In God's word, you will not find:
gender neutral language;
language about a Christian's duty to conserve the
Earth;

a liturgical ceremony to celebrate a transgender person's adoption of a new name; same-sex marriage ceremonies; updating the calendar of saints to include important figures named as saints since 1979

2Pe 3:7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

In the words of the song, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through."

1Co 7:1-2 Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." (2) But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.

1Co 7:26 I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is.

"In the culture, the whole #MeToo movement, I think, has really raised in sharp relief how much we do need to examine our assumptions about language and particularly the way we imagine God," he said. "If a language for God is exclusively male and a certain kind of image of what power means, it's certainly an incomplete picture of God. ... We can't define God. We can say something profoundly true about God, but the mystery we dare to call God is always bigger than anything we can imagine."

"As long as a masculine God remains at the top of the pyramid, nothing else we do matters. We construct a theological framework in which we talk about gender equality ... then we say that which is most holy in the universe is only and exclusively male.

"If a language for God is exclusively male and a certain kind of image of what power means, it's certainly an incomplete picture of God. ... We can't define God. We can say something profoundly true about God, but the mystery we dare to call God is always bigger than anything we can imagine."

"If a language for God is exclusively male and a certain kind of image of what power means, it's certainly an incomplete picture of God. ...

The picture is only incomplete because <u>Gafney</u> doesn't believe the Bible.

She is looking for a way to make her church do what she wants – not what God wants.

Luk 6:46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?

"Other mainline Protestant denominations, including the United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have similarly debated the use of gendered language for God; the Reform Jewish movement updated its God language to gender-neutral terms when it replaced its 1975 prayer book with a new edition in 2007." – WP 7/3/18

Perhaps you haven't thought about the difference in God's thoughts and your thoughts.

2Jn 1:9-10 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. (10) If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting,

Eph 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Whether it's being taught in a building with "church of Christ" over the door or with some other doctrinal affiliation. – expose them!

If you're here this morning and you have an affiliation with a church that's walking in darkness – come out and obey Jesus now.

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'