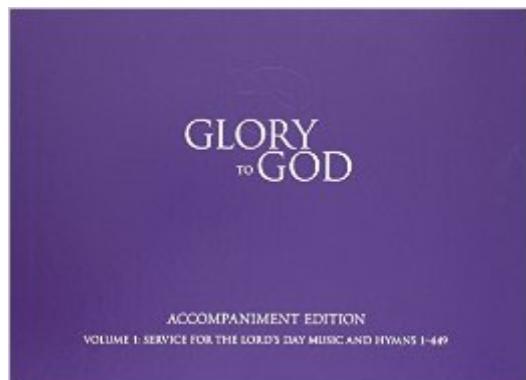


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# Glory To God (Purple Accompaniment Edition)



## **Synopsis**

"The new Presbyterian hymnal, Glory to God, will be published in September of 2013 but is now available for pre-order for individuals and congregations. This new book of congregational song will include: Over 800 hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs. Approximately 50% of included hymns will be from the 1990 Presbyterian hymnal. The remaining pieces will come from former Presbyterian hymnals, other denominational songbooks, and individual authors and composers. A musical setting of almost every Sunday lectionary psalm. Music from six different continents. Music covering all major historical and contemporary sacred genres, including approximately thirty-five African American/Gospel hymns. Comprehensive indexes. Glory to God will also contain worship aids and printed liturgies for Sunday services (including baptism and the Lord's Supper) and services for daily prayer. Complete orders of service will include congregational responses, prayers, and creeds. These will be perfect resources for ""green"" congregations, camps and conference centers, daily prayer services, and time-pressed pastors. The accompaniment edition of Glory to God is available in red or purple."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This new GLORY TO GOD hymnal was officially published in November of 2013, replacing the Presbyterian Hymnal from 1990. I honestly believe this new one is a big improvement. Some hymns have had cut verses restored and it is also a happy broadening in terms of style. Hymns such as "Standing on the Promises," "Rock of Ages," "It Is Well With My Soul," and "In Remembrance of Me," absent from the 1990 book, are found here. In good Presbyterian style, GLORY TO GOD lists

two settings for "Away In a Manger" based on two different tunes. Surprisingly, though, the tune FOREST GREEN, which I had always thought of as a quintessentially Presbyterian way to sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" is not specifically employed as such (though reference to it is made); GLORY TO GOD only lists the carol specifically under the better-known tune ST. LOUIS. Along with the enhanced hymnody, a very helpful fillip in this book are the several lines of historical material relating to each hymn at the bottom left of its page. Of course, there are brand-new hymns here, too; which of "Holy Spirit, Come to Us" (no. 234) or "Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded" (no. 242) or "A Cheerful, Chanting Dizzy Crowd" (no. 200) will become standards by the next generation? Judicious choices have been made but GLORY TO GOD is not overwhelmed by its modernity. I certainly hope this new hymnal will not be burdened by the slow acceptance and passive non-use that surprised many observers of the 1990 hymnal. GLORY TO GOD is likely to find favor for home use, too. Very strong recommendation. AVAILABILITY: There are actually four covers to this hymnal -- identical content, but it comes in either red or purple, and either hard- or softcover.

The new Presbyterian hymnal, "Glory to God," deserves to be lived with over months and years to be properly evaluated. Nevertheless, there may be some value in a quick reaction based on at least turning all the pages. Every hymnal committee has to balance adding the new they would like to offer with the old familiar hymns that will be missed if dropped. How far can churches be challenged?" "Glory to God" seem to strike on the whole a good balance. There are exciting new hymns from African, Korean, Chinese, and Hispanic sources, sometimes with words in those languages, as well as the standard hymns that will always, apparently, be needed. As an Episcopalian [with five texts of mine included] I find much to commend this book. The liturgical material is excellent though challenging. Clergy will need to be adept at praying extemporaneously as in the early days of the church or plan additions in advance. The Eucharistic order provided is very good but incomplete as is. Perhaps the boldest choice the hymnal committee made was to "jazz up" one of the most basic Christmas hymns, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," with what they call a "blues tinged setting" and not provide the standard setting. Lots of luck! I can imagine hymnal committees rejecting this book on that decision alone! Social issues are boldly faced in such texts as "In an age of twisted values, we have lost the truth we need. In sophisticated language we have justified our greed." and "Where armies scourge the countryside, and people flee in fear." Surprises are inevitable and appropriate. I was surprised to find "Shall we gather at the river" on the one hand and "We shall overcome" on the other. Jesus as "the rice of life" may speak to the people of Asia but would probably surprise many

Americans.

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