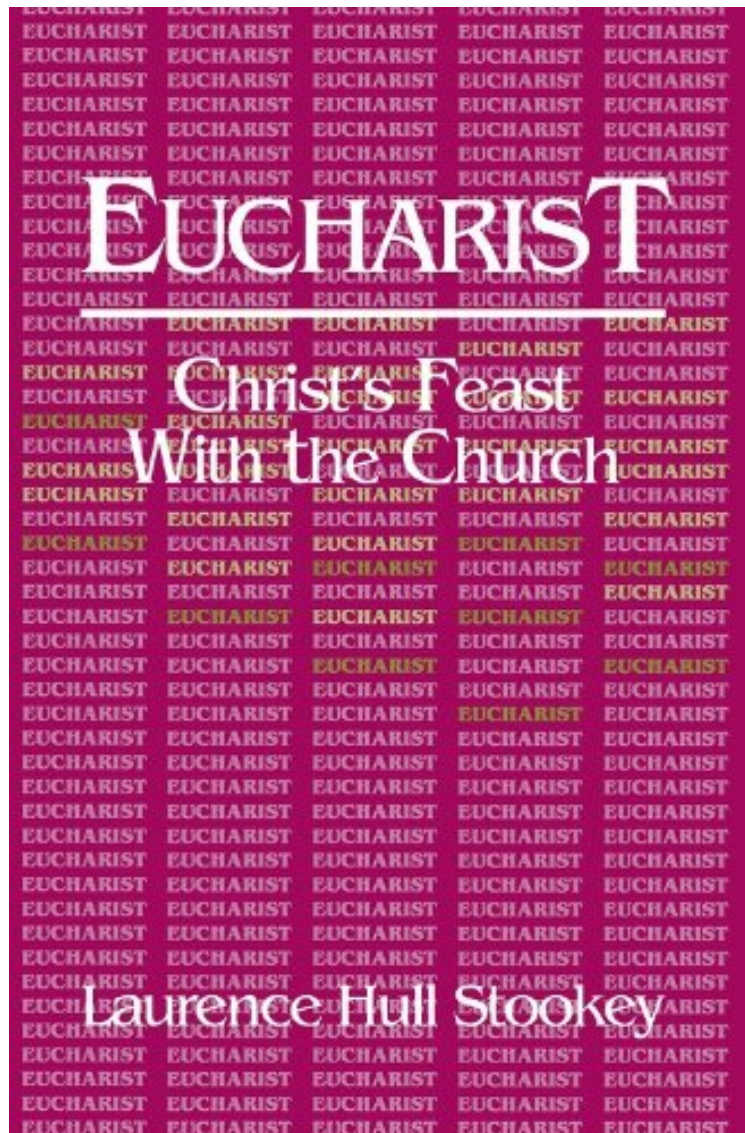


(Download) Eucharist: Christ's Feast with the Church

Eucharist: Christ's Feast with the Church

Von Laurence Hull Stookey

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Von Laurence Hull Stookey : Eucharist: Christ's Feast with the Church before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eucharist: Christ's Feast with the Church:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great feastVon FrKurt MessickLaurence Hull Stookey has a wonderful trinity of books in this text and the companion volumes 'Baptism: Christ's Act in the Church' and 'Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church'. These books address key aspects of Christian church practice in ecumenical and historical tones. 'Eucharist' is no different - it is a one volume survey of historical, theological and practical issues surrounding the central facet of Eucharist / Lord's Supper /

Communion. Stookey himself is a Methodist, but writes intentionally as an ecumenical writer; this particular text was completed while he was on sabbatical near a joint Anglican-Methodist seminary. Stookey's preface begins with a comparison of Babette's Feast and Christ's meal with the church - there is something hidden, something disarming, something inviting about the meal; we may not all approach it exactly the same way and with the same expectations, but those who feast do find it a nurturing banquet. As Stookey points out, eating and drinking are central to life and community. Food is a common motif in the gospels; gathering together for meals is frequently cited from the time of the apostles forward as primary, and indeed the first ordained members of the church were those appointed to help serve the food. Stookey gives a brief summary of New Testament images and writings about communion. He begins with Paul's instructions to the Corinthians, the text upon which many churches base the liturgies or prayers at Eucharist, given that they are the closest in time to the original Last Supper. He discusses terms such as 'anamnesis' and 'prolepsis' without becoming too bogged down in theology or exegetical analysis. Stookey highlights a few aspects of Paul's verses - that they are actions (more than concepts) central to the importance; they are corporate, not private, actions; they bind past, present and future together; and, they have evangelistic and soteriological (dealing with salvation) relevance. Stookey also explores the images of the Last Supper in the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke), and quoting from Dom Gregory Dix, he states that the Last Supper is not something radically new, but rather a reinterpretation and deepening of already-existing practices, not least of whom the group of twelve themselves. While John's gospel does not include the Last Supper in the same way, Stookey argues that the whole of the gospel is in a way a commentary on the importance of the Eucharist - chapters like the water-into-wine at the wedding in Cana, the 'bread of life' chapter, and more all point to this. Theologically, Stookey explores Platonic and Aristotelian ideas with regard to the Eucharist (as these are the two dominant philosophical schools underpinning Christian theology). These address issues of real presence and real substantive changes, and how those might be understood. Stookey also explores Nominalism, Lutheran, Zwinglian, Calvinist and later ideas regarding communion. After this theological discussion, Stookey examines the way in which the eucharist practice has been carried out over time - quoting the Lutheran hymn ('from age to age the same'), he points out that how communion is done changes dramatically over time. Early Eucharistic feasts could be elaborate, full congregational and full day meal. Stookey highlights liturgical practices of Justin Martyr and Hippolytus and the pre-Constantinian church, as well as shifts after this key official date. Stookey describes the practices of some Eucharistic traditions (the 'dry masses', the remoteness of the public, etc.) as well as reformer and modern innovations that sometimes restore the Eucharist back to its original formulations, at least somewhat. Stookey puts forward a renewed Eucharist platform that takes into account contemporary and ancient principles and practices, recovering sacramental ideas, the presence of Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the work of the people. He includes a good length discussion of practices, elements and settings for communion services, some things to avoid, and ideas to incorporate into the denominational and local adaptations that naturally occur in such practices anyway. Stookey addresses the issue of ecumenical actions, highlighting some divergences that make the one-service-fits-all approach unlikely to succeed. He concludes with two appendices - one looking at issues around communion taken to the sick and otherwise-unable-to-attend, and one looking at particular issues in the Wesleyan/Methodist traditions. There will be points of divergence to be sure; he points out some historic ironies along the way (such as the closer familiarity of Eucharist practices between Roman Catholics and Lutherans than the Lutherans and Presbyterians, both Protestant churches), and cautions that not all of his ideas and analysis will be fitting or welcome in all denominational settings. Nevertheless, the issues addressed are important ones, and Stookey's writing is clear, concise, accessible and worthwhile.

Kurzbeschreibung This book is envisioned as a follow up to Stookey's successful *Baptism: Christ's Act in the Church*, published in 1982. It will provide historical--theological perspective in a style that is "popular," rather than academically heavy; and, it will be ecumenical in scope, but with a concentration on Protestantism. The shared Calvinian eucharistic tradition of Presbyterians, UCC, and Methodists will be particularly explored. It will also provide material pertinent to preaching, study of the eucharist by laity, and practical local reform that implements recent revisions of denominational rites.

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ber den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende Laurence Hull Stookey is Professor Emeritus of Preaching and Worship, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., and Pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church in Allen, MD. He has authored the following books for Abingdon: *Eucharist: Christ's Feast With the Church*; *Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*; *Baptism: Christ's Act in the Church*; *Let the Whole Church Say Amen*; and *This Day: A Wesleyan Way of Prayer*. also try

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