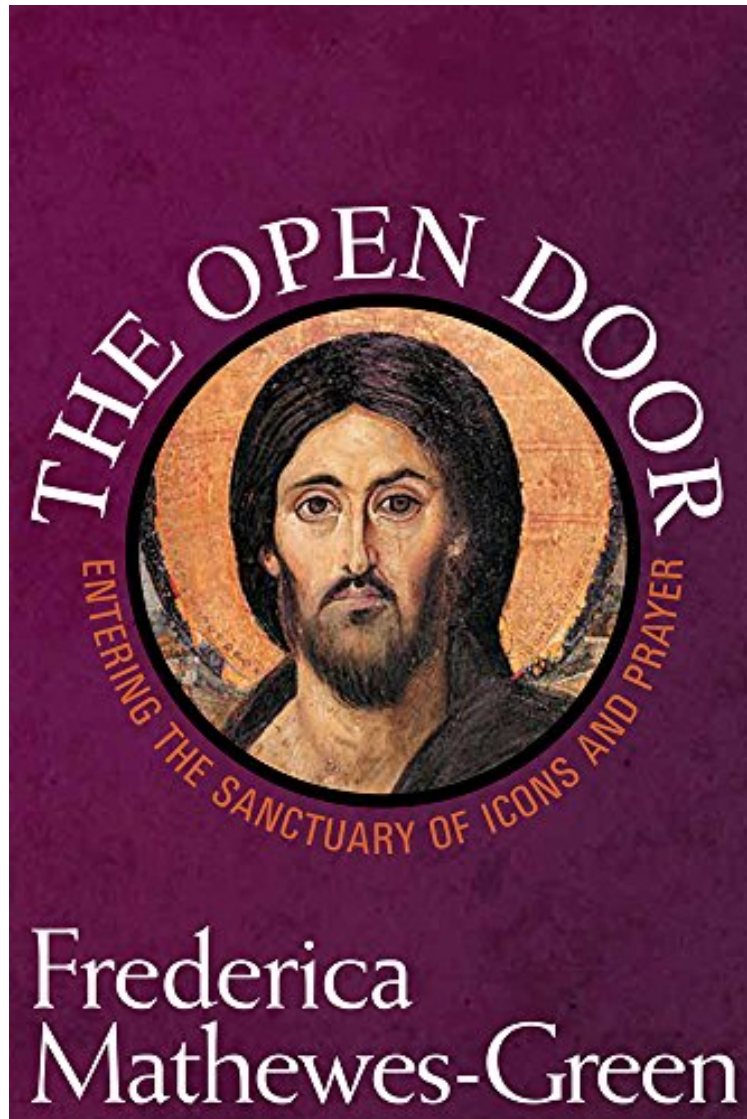


[FREE] The Open Door: Entering the Sanctuary of Icons and Prayer (English Edition)

The Open Door: Entering the Sanctuary of Icons and Prayer (English Edition)

Von Frederica Mathewes-Green
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Von Frederica Mathewes-Green : The Open Door: Entering the Sanctuary of Icons and Prayer (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Open Door: Entering the Sanctuary of Icons and Prayer (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Prayer in visual formVon FrKurt MessickPraying with icons has a long (and not always untroubled) history in Christian

practice; even the Western Protestant tradition that has come to eschew iconographic elements in worship to varying degrees still recognises the history and artistic value of images in some contexts. Author Frederica Mathewes-Green is writing primarily to this group in her text, with careful explanations and good descriptions that show the spiritual value of icons in a worshipful and prayerful setting. Mathewes-Green writes, 'Unless you're a member of an Orthodox church, you probably haven't encountered icons in their natural setting.' In this text, she constructs an imaginary church for the reader to visit, with various icons in their typical Orthodox positions. The first part, Iconostasis, looks at the icons that would be on the screen at the altar area. Pictures of the icons are included as colour plates at the centre of the book - these include The Christ of Sinai, The Virgin of Vladimir, The Resurrection, and St. John the Baptist. The second part of the book looks at other icons that might be present in a church, including images of saints, images from scriptural stories of both Old and New Testaments, and other gospel/traditional images of Christ. These are included as black-and-white images in the centre of the book. Mathewes-Green describes the images both in terms of artistry as well as spiritual connection. Some icons are stylised to a high degree, and others are more realistic. By realistic, however, icons are not meant to be portrayals of people in natural settings - icons are meant to connect the one pondering and meditating upon them with the object of worship, that is, with God, in ways that reach the soul beyond what mere words could achieve. Icons often have a 'penetrating effect', with a play at elements of perspective, colour, materials, size and other aspects that draw the eye in particular directions, and place the viewer in otherworldly positions. Icons are meant to be more than interesting pictures. As Mathewes-Green concedes, some icons aren't even 'good art' in many technical senses. 'Icons have their fullest impact on those who are saturated in prayer and Scripture, and who participate in the full life of the Church, with all her mysteries, hymns and worship.' Mathewes-Green describes liturgies and services as well as times of private prayer and devotion during her trips to the imaginary Orthodox church. Her book ends with one of my favourite images, the Old Testament Trinity done by Rublev in 1411. (Archbishop Rowan Williams writes about this in one of his books on icons, too.) The icon is known to me more frequently by the name The Hospitality of Abraham, and this feature is made more prominent by the fact that in some versions of this icon, the figures of Abraham and Sarah are not present, even in the background. Mathewes-Green invites the reader on a dozen imaginative trips to gaze upon the 'windows into heaven', to meditate upon their stories and be enriched. There is a glossary of terms that might be unfamiliar, particularly to those whose background is not from a liturgical tradition, but such terminology is kept to a minimum throughout the text. Mathewes-Green concludes with some suggestions for further readings, and some website resources for finding out more about icons, including where to purchase them. This is a wonderful, spirit-filled book.

Kurzbeschreibung Discover how icons can become part of your own life of prayer. Encounter twelve of the world's most significant Orthodox icons with one of today's best-loved spiritual writers as your guide. "The Open Door provides an open window into a radically different approach to spiritual formation, one that is more ancient/Eastern than modern/Western, one that feels refreshingly new as well as seasoned, rich, and time-tested." Brian McLaren, author of *Everything Must Change* and *A Generous Orthodoxy* "The joy of [this] book is to allow us to meet the icons where the saints want us to meet them face to face in a prayer corner, in candlelight as we approach the altar, above the beds of our sleeping children. . . . This book is a call to stand still, take a deep breath and face the cloud of witnesses." Terry Mattingly, columnist, Scripps Howard News Service *Pressestimmen* "Frederica Mathewes-Green, whose books on Eastern Orthodoxy have popularized ancient Christian practices for a modern audience, beautifully underscores the importance of following the precedent of the earliest Christians in *The Illumined Heart: The Ancient Christian Path of Transformation*." Kurzbeschreibung Discover how icons can become part of your own life of prayer. Encounter twelve of the world's most significant Orthodox icons with one of today's best-loved spiritual writers as your guide. "The Open Door provides an open window into a radically different approach to spiritual formation, one that is more ancient/Eastern than modern/Western, one that feels refreshingly new as well as seasoned, rich, and time-tested." Brian McLaren, author of *Everything Must Change* and *A Generous Orthodoxy* "The joy of [this] book is to allow us to meet the icons where the saints want us to meet them face to face in a prayer corner, in candlelight as we approach the altar, above the beds of our sleeping children. . . . This book is a call to stand still, take a deep breath and face the cloud of witnesses." Terry Mattingly, columnist, Scripps Howard News Service