

# Consensus

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Volume 18

Issue 2 *Word and Worship: Essays on Preaching and Liturgy*

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Article 19

11-1-1992

## Aids to the Psalms: Cycle C

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### Recommended Citation

Neeb, John H. C. (1992) "Aids to the Psalms: Cycle C," *Consensus*: Vol. 18 : Iss. 2 , Article 19.  
Available at: <http://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus/vol18/iss2/19>

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*God Calls: Man Chooses* is an honest consideration of women in ministry within the Canadian context. It provides an overview of the present lived experience of women in ministry. It raises particular issues, attitudes and practices that need to be examined and adjusted within the various denominations in order that women ministers can answer the divine call into ministry as fully and in as healthy a way as possible. Only then can their gifts and capabilities be properly exercised as God intends for the building up of the church and its mission to the world.

Julianna Wehrfritz-Hanson  
Calgary, Alberta

### **Aids to the Psalms: Cycle C**

Hugh H. Drennan

Lima, Ohio: C.S.S. Pub. Co., Inc., 1991

152 pages

This book proposes to assist the church leader in fostering spiritual growth through increased use of the psalms.

The third in a series of three books, Drennan develops themes in the psalms appointed for Cycle C of the Common Lectionary. Each psalm appears in the New Revised Standard Version of the biblical text followed by an "alternate image" and a brief "reflection".

The "alternate image" segments are set in the context of a singer, troubadour, or minstrel throughout the book. There is a healthy balance between female and male images. Some images are quite innovative such as Good Friday's troubadour with AIDS (Psalm 22). Other image sections are unimaginative expansions of the psalm's existing image. The "reflection" sections exhibit less excitement and sometimes offer facile answers to some of the psalmist's honest scepticism.

The book consistently ignores the thematic movement through the seasons of the church year, e.g., Drennan misses the clarion call of Advent, "For you I wait all day long" (Psalm 25:4), Advent 1. However, he takes several opportunities to point out the theological significance of several Hebrew words, e.g., *hesed* (p. 36), *hallel* (p. 101), *gahal* (p. 138). A glossary of key Hebrew words (p. 10) assists the reader in plumbing the depths of the nuances of important Hebrew concepts.

Preachers looking for creative contemporary images will find some useful material here. In this reviewer's opinion, however, the book falls short of its stated purpose to provide personal spiritual growth opportunities for today's pastor.

Potential readers should be aware that the psalms appointed for the Common Lectionary correspond reasonably well from Advent 1 to The Holy

Trinity (10 diverge) with the psalms appointed in series C in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. However, from Proper 4 through the end of the church year there is only one common selection.

John H.C. Neeb  
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## **Christianity Through Non-Christian Eyes**

Paul J. Griffiths, editor  
Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1990  
286 pages

Paul J. Griffiths, who holds degrees in theology, classical Indian religion and Buddhist studies, provides an informative, challenging, exciting, at times disturbing volume. Claiming that within today's pluralistic society candid and open interreligious dialogue is not only essential in its own right; it is also necessary for growth in personal and religious self-understanding, for a sense of wholesomeness in missiology and for a spirit of inclusivity in its fullest sense within religious ministry.

"Most interreligious dialogue has until now been initiated by Christians. This may change; there are some signs that it already is changing. But there is little doubt that one of the things that Christians... need to understand better is the images of Christ, Christians and Christianity that non-Christians have and use. Christians have said a great deal about how they see Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Muslims, and about what place they are prepared to allot the members of these communities in God's plan for human salvation; they have as yet not learned to listen very carefully to what members of these communities have said and are saying about them" (3).

This volume contains essays by scholarly representatives from Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. "Each of the authors chosen is concerned to interpret and apply his tradition, as he sees it, to one of two questions (or sometimes to both): the question of how to think about Christians and/or the question of how to think about other religions in general" (3). Different views, sometimes embracing conservative and sometimes liberal perspectives, are intentionally presented from each of the four religions.

The editor provides a general introductory essay as well as a brief introduction and bibliography for each of the four sections. In the introduction he notes that this book "is intended as an educational tool for Christians and as an instrument to further discussion of one of the most pressing and difficult theological questions now facing all Christian communities. Christians must learn, if they are to reappropriate and give new voice to their gospel in such a way that it can be heard by faithful members of