

# PRESS KIT

*BOOKS FOR EXPERIENCING  
THE CHURCH YEAR*



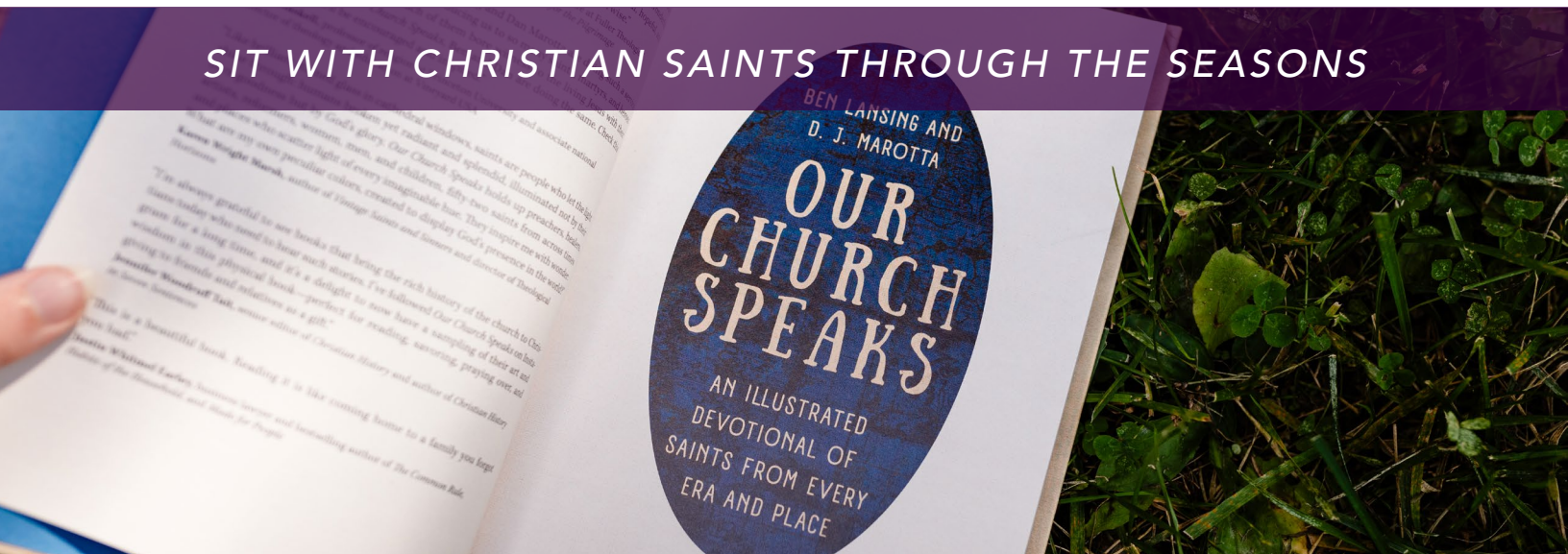
**There is a season for everything. . .**

From Advent to films to the riches of the church calendar, we are invited to fully live in the seasons we are in. These titles have been specially chosen to help you reflect on and embrace the times, from the celebratory to the ordinary.

To take each season in full, see the rest of [our Advent, Christmas, and Church Calendar resources](#).

[Request a review copy or interview.](#)

## SIT WITH CHRISTIAN SAINTS THROUGH THE SEASONS



*Our Church Speaks: An Illustrated Devotional of Saints from Every Era and Place*

This illustrated devotional vividly depicts the lives and words of great women and men of faith. Artist Ben Lansing and Anglican priest D. J. Marotta offer fifty-two profound images and reflections on Christians, from Polycarp in the first century to the martyrs of Sudan in the twenty-first century. These saints, from every continent and century of church history, demonstrate the historic church’s relevance for Christians today and reveal God’s faithfulness in all times and circumstances.

***“This isn’t a history textbook but a lively introduction to a group of flawed but faith-filled followers of Christ spanning the breadth of the Christian church. You will come away from this book not just educated about these men and women but inspired to seek out the ways of the Spirit to which they point.”***

—RUSSELL MOORE,  
editor in chief at *Christianity Today* and host of *The Russell Moore Show*



**BEN LANSING** is an artist from Richmond, Virginia, and the creator of the online art series [Our Church Speaks](#). He is an Anglican deacon and a lifelong student of the history of art and religion. He loves sharing the history of the global church through art and storytelling. He lives in Richmond with his wife, Bethany, in a house full of books.



**D. J. MAROTTA** is a priest in the Anglican Church in North America and the founding rector of Redeemer Anglican Church in Richmond, Virginia. He is the author of *Liturgy in the Wilderness: How the Lord’s Prayer Shapes the Imagination of the Church in a Secular Age*. His wife is gracious and his children are clever.



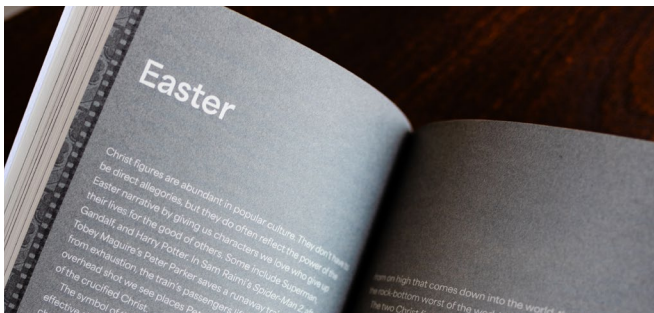
[Request a review copy or interview.](#)

## DEEPEN THE MEANING OF MOVIES WITH THE CHURCH CALENDAR



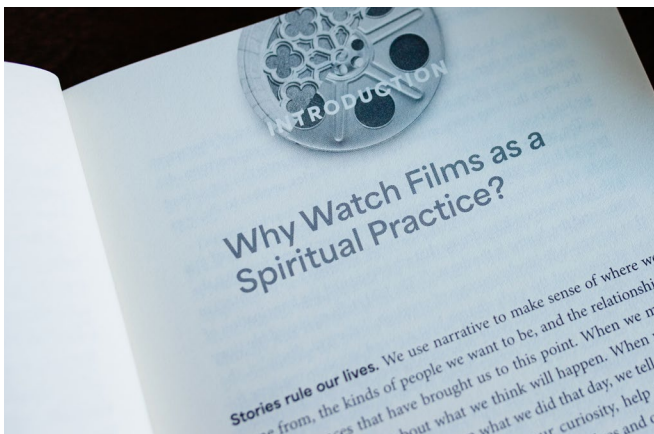
### *Films for All Seasons: Experiencing the Church Year at the Movies*

The life of the church is defined by stories, which we revisit through the pattern of the Christian year. Olcese invites us to reflect on the great themes of the church calendar through the lens of film. From superhero movies and *Star Wars* to classics and arthouse films, she chooses movies for each liturgical season and leads us through them with skill and infectious enthusiasm, exploring how each one can inform and deepen our appreciation of its corresponding season.



***“Abby Olcese has given us an invaluable gift: a book in which keen film insights and rich spiritual wisdom seem to flow to and from each other, feeding each other. It’s more than just a terrific tool for anyone looking to use movies to enhance their understanding of Christianity. It’s a life-changing study in using art to illuminate the steps of your spiritual journey.”***

—TYLER HUCKABEE, writer of *Clusterhuck*



**ABBY OLCESE** is a writer on film, popular culture, and faith. Her work has appeared at Think Christian, *Sojourners*, *Paste*, *RogerEbert.com*, and */Film*. She is also the film editor for *The Pitch*, a website and magazine serving the greater Kansas City, Missouri, area. She lives in Kansas City.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)

## WATCHFULLY WAIT FOR JESUS WITH ADVENT READINGS



### ***A Radiant Birth: Advent Readings for a Bright Season***

The first Christmas sermon preserved in church history was preached by St. John Chrysostom in AD 386, in which he declared, “Behold a new and wonderful mystery!” In this volume, the Christian literary writers of the Chrysostom Society reflect on Advent and Christmastide as a bright and meaningful season of anticipation and glory. Through forty-two readings from the first Sunday of Advent through Epiphany, contributors prepare us in watchful waiting for the coming of Jesus.

***“A Radiant Birth is a true gift. Poetry and prose flow mingled down into the heart and soul. Lovingly assembled by two wise and care-filled writers, it warmly welcomes readers into the mystery and wonder of Advent. This is a book that you will cherish and read year after year.”***

—J. BRENT BILL,

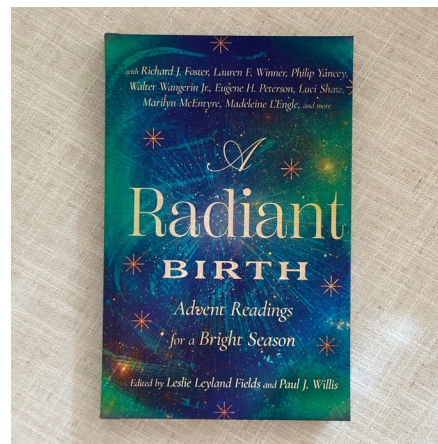
author of *Holy Silence: The Gift of Quaker Spirituality* and *Amity: Stories from the Heartland*



**LESLIE LEYLAND FIELDS** is the award-winning author of twelve books, the founder of Your Story Matters Ministry, and an international teacher and speaker on matters of faith and culture. When not traveling, she lives on two islands in Alaska, where she has worked in commercial fishing with her family and where she leads the Harvester Island Writers’ Workshop.



**PAUL J. WILLIS**, now retired, served for many years as professor of English at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. He has published seven collections of poetry, the most recent of which is *Somewhere to Follow*. He is also the author of an eco-fantasy novel *The Alpine Tales*, the young-adult novel *All in a Garden Green*, and the essay collections *Bright Shoots of Everlastingness* and *To Build a Trail*. He serves as president of the Chrysostom Society.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)

## TREASURE THE RICHES OF THE CHURCH YEAR

### *The Fullness of Time: A Journey Through the Church Year*

The seasons of the church invite us to enact, over and over again, the gospel story. The Fullness of Time series promises to open up that story afresh to individuals, families, and churches alike seeking a deeper walk with Jesus.

The series invites readers to explore the riches of the church year, guided by some of our finest church theologians. Each volume introduces the traditions, prayers, Scriptures, and rituals of a season of the church—not as an academic exercise, but as reflections on the theological and spiritual treasures of the church calendar.

**Advent: The Season of Hope**

BY TISH HARRISON WARREN

**Christmas: The Season of Life and Light**

BY EMILY HUNTER MCGOWIN

**Epiphany: The Season of Glory**

BY FLEMING RUTLEDGE

**Lent: The Season of Repentance and Renewal**

BY ESAU McCAULLEY

**Easter: The Season of the Resurrection of Jesus**

BY WESLEY HILL

**Pentecost: A Day of Power for All People**

BY EMILIO ALVAREZ

**COMING SOON**

***Ordinary Time:  
The Season of Growth***

BY AMY PEELER



**A note from series editor, Esau McCaulley:** “This diverse group of male and female writers spans multiple church traditions, including the Anglican Church in North America, the Episcopal Church, and Black Pentecostals interested in the renewal of liturgical tradition.”

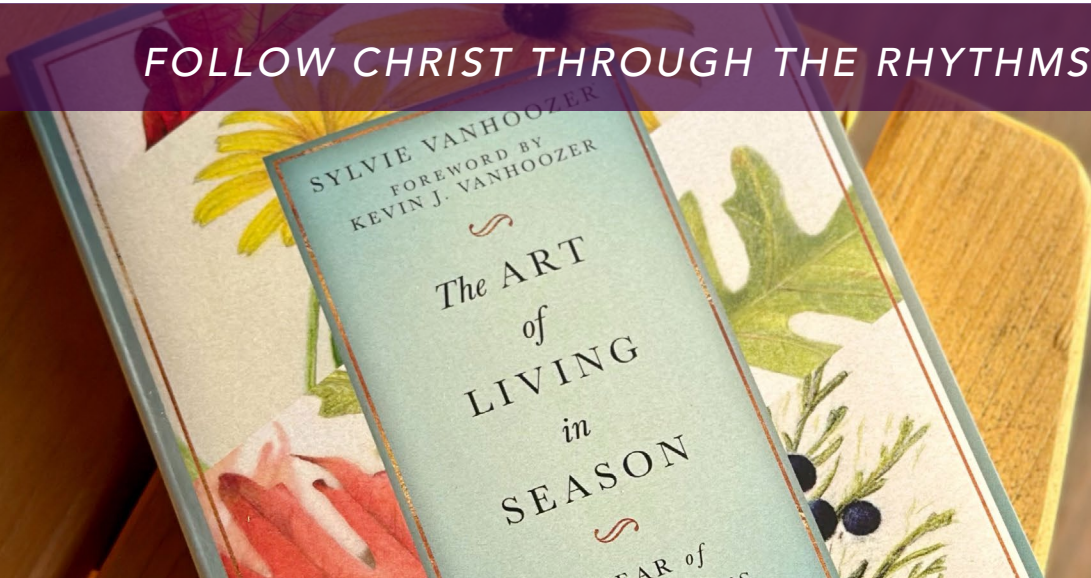
**ESAU McCAULLEY** is associate professor of New Testament at Wheaton College. He is the author of many works including *Sharing in the Son's Inheritance* and *Reading While Black*. He is a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times*, and his writing has also appeared in places such as the *Atlantic* and the *Washington Post*.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)



## FOLLOW CHRIST THROUGH THE RHYTHMS OF NATURE



### *The Art of Living in Season: A Year of Reflections for Everyday Saints*

Growing up in her native Provence, in southern France, Sylvie Vanhoozer learned about the traditional Provençal crèche. These nativity scenes were peopled by santons—“little saints”—each bringing their unique gifts to the baby Jesus.

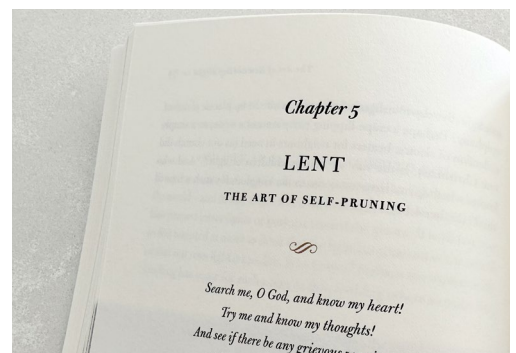
Vanhoozer invites readers to join this communion of little saints and to follow them not only at Christmas but throughout the whole year. Each chapter introduces a new santon and opens up another aspect of our annual pilgrimage toward Christ. Structured as weekly reflections and illustrated with Vanhoozer’s own botanical illustrations, this book invites us to follow Christ in our own places and seasons of life, beginning by keeping in step with the rhythms of nature and the church calendar.

***“Sylvie Vanhoozer’s winsome and infectious compendium is about learning in practical and endearing ways to use our imaginations and behold Jesus becoming incarnate in the seasons of our days. But more profoundly, it is about letting our lives be transposed so we become characters in the story of God in Christ. Here you will find something for body, mind, and spirit to cluster round Christ’s earthy throne of grace. This book will make your soul grow.”***

—SAMUEL WELLS, vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London

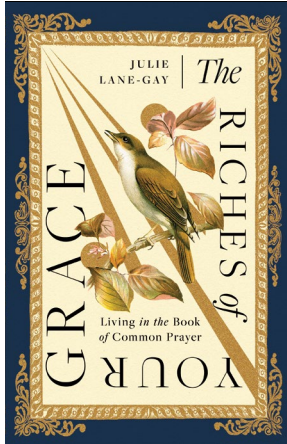


**SYLVIE VANHOOZER** is a writer, botanical artist, and everyday saint from Provence, France. She lives in Libertyville, Illinois, with her husband, Kevin. They have two grown daughters.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)

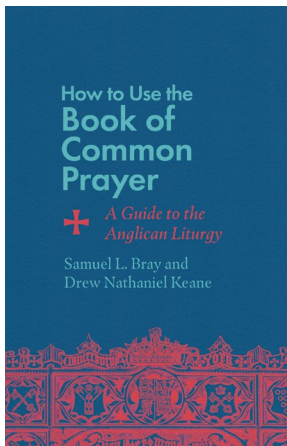
DISCOVER HOW THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER CAN ANCHOR US—OUR PRAYERS, OUR DAILY LIVES, OUR HEARTS—IN CHRIST.



[Riches of Your Grace:  
Living in the Book of Common Prayer](#)

BY JULIE LANE-GAY

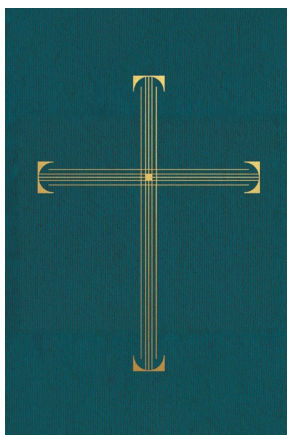
Lane-Gay shares the treasures she has found in the *Book of Common Prayer*. It's not a history of the prayer book nor a guide (though it will certainly help readers get their bearings). Instead, using stories from her own life, Lane-Gay shows what it means to live in the prayer book: to be transformed by its prayers and patterns and to be rooted in the riches of God's grace.



[How to Use the Book of Common Prayer:  
A Guide to the Anglican Liturgy](#)

BY SAMUEL L. BRAY AND DREW NATHANIEL KEANE

Samuel Bray and Drew Keane introduce the classic Prayer Book to newcomers. Beginning with a brief history and case for liturgical prayer, they walk through daily morning and evening prayer, baptism and Communion, the church year, and the Prayer Book's plan for reading the Bible. This is not only an introduction to the Prayer Book—it's a guide to letting it form your faith.



[The 1662 Book of Common Prayer:  
International Edition](#)

EDITED BY SAMUEL L. BRAY AND DREW NATHANIEL KEANE

The classic text of the 1662 prayer book presents several difficulties for contemporary users, especially those outside the Church of England. *The 1662 Book of Common Prayer: International Edition* gently updates the text for contemporary use. In this volume, readers will find the following:

- State prayers of England have been replaced with prayers that can be used regardless of nation or polity,
- Obscure words and phrases have been modestly revised with a view towards preserving the prayer book's own cadence, and
- A selection of treasured prayers from later Anglican tradition has been appended.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)