

**A SERVICE BOOK: WITH A
SELECTION OF
TUNES AND HYMNS
FOR SABBATH SCHOOLS**

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A Service Book: With a Selection of Tunes and Hymns for Sabbath Schools by Henry Bacon

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HENRY BACON

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SELECTION OF TUNES AND HYMNS,
FOR
SABBATH SCHOOLS

BY HENRY BACON.

Let the words of my lips, and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer.

PSALM xix. 14

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PREFACE.

HERRICK has beautifully said, that we may look merely *at* the glass of a window, or *through it*, and the heavens espy. This aptly sets forth the proper relation of all ritual services: they are designed to let in the light of devotion to the soul, and not to shut out the view of spiritual truth and beauty. They communicate the devotional feeling which originated them. They come in as *aids* to devotion, — as mediators between the senses and the spirit. They bridge over the chasm which is so often felt to exist between our relations to material and spiritual things, and bring us more speedily than we should otherwise be brought into communion and fellowship with the Divine. This is nowhere more apparent than in the Sabbath school; and in all denominations where use has been made of any kind of a liturgy, as an aid to devotion, its utility has been demonstrated. It secures a participation in the devotional exercises of the school better than the opposite method of extemporaneous prayer.

Such a conviction impelled to the preparation of the *SERVICE BOOK* now presented to the public. Several books designed to meet the same wants are already before the public; but it is believed that the work herewith offered for the acceptance of Sabbath schools, is nearer what Pastors and Superintendents desire in such a work than any one yet issued.

It contains thirty-seven regular, and twelve occasional services, with forms for the induction of officers and teachers;

a collection of tunes with appropriate hymns; and a selection of hymns suitable for all the themes and occasions which may arrest the attention of a school. The whole number of hymns in the book is over two hundred.

The *verse* with which *each* regular service opens is designed to be *read* or *sung*, to fix attention. The Scripture-reading, as also the Prayer, can be read by the whole school, or by the Superintendent; or, which is often very impressive, the male and female scholars may read alternately a period of the Scripture-reading. So also with the verses of the hymn, — the males may read one verse, the females the other, and both the third. Sameness of procedure should be guarded against as much as possible, for by so doing, attention is best secured, and the service is rendered most effective.

All the prayers, and a large number of the hymns, were written for this work. The music, it is believed, will commend itself when tried; and for the selection I am indebted to Charles E. Carpenter, the very worthy superintendent of the First Universalist Sabbath school in this city, who has, for several years, trained our scholars to sing in the school and at exhibitions, to universal satisfaction.

Offering the best that I could do to answer what I thought to be the desire of those interested in the use of a Service Book in our Sabbath schools, I humbly pray of God that my labor may not be in vain.

HENRY BACON.

Providence, R. I., Sept., 1849.

SERVICE BOOK.

FIRST SERVICE.

[8 & 7's M.] As from week to week we gather,
Thanks to give, and sins confess,
May we feel, O gracious Father,
Thou our Sabbath school doth bless.

I. SCRIPTURE READING. Luke iv. 16-22.

The Saviour's Custom.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias; and when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

II. RESPONSES.

S. In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.

T. And the earth was without form and void;

C. And darkness was on the face of the deep.

S. And the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters.

T. And God said,

T. & C. Let there be light!

A.J. And there was light.

S. God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness,

T. Hath shined in our hearts,

C. To give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God,

All. In the face of Jesus Christ.

III. PRAYER.

Heavenly Father! thine is this holy day. May we spend it as hours consecrated to Heaven—to the improvement of our hearts in purity and love. We thank thee for the revelation of thyself in nature and in thy Word;—that the heavens display thy glory—that the earth is full of thy goodness—that holy men were inspired to speak thy truth unto man. But thou hast also spoken by thy dear Son, our Saviour. For the knowledge of thee which he brought, we thank thy great and holy name. O, make us mindful of his life and character! May we love our Sabbath school for the aid it gives us to learn of Jesus—to study his character—to see there what thou wouldst have us to do. In mercy regard the interests of our school. May all to whom is committed its care be taught of thee, and lead upright and godly lives. May every scholar, O God, seek to know thee—to give heed to all that is here taught, and so speak and so do as to reflect no dishonor on this school. Bless all Sabbath schools, and may the ignorant be taught of thee everywhere. O, smile upon our service to-day, and may we be better prepared to resist temptation and live to thy praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IV. HYMN. L. M.—*The Light of Truth.*

There is a light whose kindling rays
Beam with a radiance all divine;
'T is in thy revelation, Lord,
The star of Truth doth brightly shine.

It cheers us mid the deepest gloom,
And guides us through life's thorny way,

SERVICE II.

7

Our hope in dark affliction's night,
The herald of a brighter day.

O grant us, Lord, the hearing ear,
While thy bright rays illumine our eyes,
That all our daily walks may be
Adorned like paths in paradise.

SECOND SERVICE.

[L. M.] Come to God's altar! O, draw near,
And gladly come, for God is here!
Come at the call of that kind voice,
That bids you in his love rejoice.

I. SCRIPTURE READING. — Luke xv. 2—10.

Joy over the Repentant.

And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, That likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Either what woman, having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

II. RESPONSES.

- S. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
- T. Serve the Lord with gladness;
- C. Come before his presence with singing.
- S. Know ye that the Lord he is God;
- C. It is he that made us, and not we ourselves;
- T. We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- S. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
- T. And into his courts with praise: