

**SELECTION FROM THE SCOTTISH
METRICAL PSALMS AND THE
PARAPHRASES. SUITABLE FOR
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WORSHIP. -
WITH APPROPRIATE TUNES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649032136

Selection from the Scottish Metrical Psalms and the Paraphrases. Suitable for Public and Private Worship. - with Appropriate Tunes by Church of Scotland

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**SELECTION FROM THE SCOTTISH
METRICAL PSALMS AND THE
PARAPHRASES. SUITABLE FOR
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WORSHIP. -
WITH APPROPRIATE TUNES**

50

←

SELECTION
FROM THE
SCOTTISH METRICAL PSALMS
AND
THE PARAPHRASES.

207

sl

Church of Scotland

SELECTION

FROM

The Scottish Metrical Psalms

and

The Paraphrases.

Suitable for Public and Private Worship.

—with Appropriate Tunes—



GLASGOW:
AIRD AND COGHILL, LIMITED,
24 DOUGLAS STREET.

—
1907.

M
2130
.C5
1907a

P R E F A C E .

IF we admit that, to a devout Spirit, the reading of the whole Book of Psalms and meditation thereon may be profitable, it does not follow, by any means, that all the Psalms are suitable for worship. Unhappily, the early Reformers in Geneva thought otherwise. With the commendable desire of making united congregational singing attainable, they had the whole Psalter translated into metre, in the vernacular of the worshippers. The translators were adjured to adhere closely to the original and to avoid paraphrasing. The inevitable result was the inclusion of a great many Psalms and portions of Psalms quite out of keeping with the needs and ideas of Christian worship ; and as to the "drawing into English metre," the outcome was an abundance of what was common-place, laboured, and even grotesque. From these beginnings there emerged ultimately the complete English Psalter of 1562, and the Scottish Psalter of 1564—both containing much in common by the same English and Scottish translators.

In 1650 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland having made a complete revision of its own previous Psalters, and of the version of the Psalms by Francis Rous—accepted at Westminster, although regarded askance at Edinburgh—authorised the present version of "The Psalms of David." In some respects it is an improvement on its predecessors, but it perpetuates the old defects which must always limit the use of the metrical psalms. The Assembly erred with the Reformers in appointing the whole Psalter "to be sung in congregations," and their rhymers had the same difficulties in making their verses "agreeable to the text."

It is patent to all that only a very small proportion of the metrical Psalms is in actual use. Indeed it may be affirmed that were less regard paid to the pressure of use and wont, and more to a due sense

of what befits praise in subject, thought, and expression, still fewer verses would be given out from the pulpit. Fortunately however, some of the translators rose high above their fellows, and we have in our metrical Psalms a reserve of splendid material, archaic and uncouth at times, if you will, but dignified, fervid, and on a high level of devotion—material whose texture and tone have always been in accord with Scottish temperament. Any method which succeeds in gathering that material into a compact whole, and, for the purpose in hand, keeping all the rest out of sight, should have the effect of magnifying the Psalms in our service of praise, of manifesting their beauty and grandeur, and of rendering their use more acceptable.

This Selection is an attempt to supply what is desiderated. By ignoring the numbering of the verses it is possible to render available for use, and without straining the context, many verses now standing apart from each other and from accepted groups; and also to expunge unsuitable verses which intrude awkwardly in otherwise desirable passages. Using this expedient, the idea has been to retain, as far as possible, what is germane to Christian worship and best in versification, and generally to omit what is not praise to God, nor an expression of the soul's love, devotion, thankfulness and joy; of its repentance, sorrow and submission.

Agreement as to what ought to be included, and what omitted, in a compilation such as this, is of course not to be expected. Some will call for certain verses, the exclusion of which in praise they have never conceived as possible. Others may be of opinion that the selection suggested—less than fifteen per cent. of the whole number of verses in the Psalms—is still too large for its intended use. It is hoped, however, that consideration being given to the above lines of guidance, this effort to conserve the best and eliminate the unnecessary may be found to be a move in the right direction.