

**THE GLORIA
PATRI REVISED**

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The Gloria Patri Revised by Elmer Hewitt Capen & Leo Rich Lewis

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ELMER HEWITT CAPEN & LEO RICH LEWIS

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REVISED



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UNIVERSALIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

1909

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PREFACE.

THE Gloria Patri has been a distinct aid in the devotions of a great number of congregations for more than a generation; and it still has features of great value in an orderly worship. The book was prepared mainly by the late L. J. Fletcher, D.D., assisted in a slight degree by the late Thomas B. Thayer, D.D., who, it is understood, arranged the first service. But notwithstanding the important place which the book has filled and the great esteem in which it has been held, there has been for some time a strong and growing feeling that there is need of something at once a little more modern and a little more in harmony with traditional forms of worship.

The desire for a new manual for use in public devotions has manifested itself in various ways. Twice the General Convention has appointed a committee to consider the subject. The last committee chosen was appointed at the session held in Boston in 1899: the Rev. Charles R. Tenney, Henry I. Cushman, D.D., Andrew J. Canfield, D.D., Lewis B. Fisher, D.D., and the undersigned. This Committee reported, at the session in Buffalo, in favor of such revision of the Gloria Patri as would adapt it to present needs.

In accordance with the suggestion of the Committee, arrangement was made by the Universalist Publishing House with the undersigned, in collaboration with Professor Leo R. Lewis, to undertake the work of revision. To Professor Lewis has been

assigned the task of editing the musical parts of the service, while the undersigned has had to do mainly with the liturgical portions of the work.

It is obvious that no book could be devised which would be equally acceptable to all. In the present case, the aim has been, while providing for a dignified, devout, orderly and liturgical worship, to secure flexibility, variety and a due regard to the independence of a body of believers that is mainly congregational in its traditions and tastes. The general form and outline of the original *Gloria Patri*, together with many of the responsive readings, have been retained. The prayers and canticles are, for the most part, those of the ages. Individual peculiarities of expression, as well as everything that savors of dogma, have been carefully avoided as undesirable in a book of worship.

The first service, at the request of many clergymen who have had experience in its use, has been kept unchanged except in the musical selections. The second service is the same as that set down in the *Church Harmonies New and Old*, and may prove acceptable to those who desire to use constantly the same service. The plan of having a specific service for each month of the year has been preserved; but, instead of two services, one for the morning and another for the evening, only one service will here be found. Inasmuch as many clergymen and congregations will probably prefer a vesper service for the evening, two such services are provided; one of them being the service which was in the original book and the other the service which appears both in the *Book of Prayer for the Church and Home* and in the *Church Harmonies New and Old*. Special services to an extent covering nearly every possible occasion of public worship have been inserted.

The Winchester Profession of Belief appears at an appropriate place in nearly every service; and, as an alternative, a creed embodying the five points affirmed at the sessions of the General Convention held in Chicago and in Boston.

In the musical portion of the work the aim has been to secure, not originality or novelty, but the greatest simplicity compatible with sterling quality and needful variety. Thus, while the musical rendering may be attained by those congregations whose choral outfit is of the most meagre kind, the metropolitan church will, it is believed, find acceptable a literal use of the services as here arranged; especially as opportunity is given for the additional or alternative use of selections which can be rendered adequately only by accomplished choirs.

The Editors accept full responsibility for the final form in which the services appear. Acknowledgments are due, however, to many persons, both of the clergy and of the laity, whose interest in the enrichment of the forms of divine worship has been manifested in many valuable suggestions. No one could undertake to prepare a book of worship for the Universalist Church without recognizing the transcendent services of Charles H. Leonard, D. D., in the *Book of Prayer*. That book has been freely used both for substance and for suggestion; and, in not a few instances, entire services have been taken from it.

If *The Gloria Patri Revised* shall find as general usage and shall continue in favor for as long a time as *The Gloria Patri*, the efforts of those who have conducted the revision will be amply recompensed.

E. H. CAPEN.

TUFTS COLLEGE,
February, 1903.