

**SELECTIONS FOR RESPONSIVE
READING: ARRANGED WITH PROPER
REFERENCE TO LEADERSHIP AND
RESPONSIVENESS BETWEEN
MINISTER AND CONGREGATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649123872

Selections for responsive reading: arranged with proper reference to leadership and responsiveness between minister and congregation by Edward Hungerford

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

EDWARD HUNGERFORD

**SELECTIONS FOR RESPONSIVE
READING: ARRANGED WITH PROPER
REFERENCE TO LEADERSHIP AND
RESPONSIVENESS BETWEEN
MINISTER AND CONGREGATION**

Selections for Responsive Reading

ARRANGED WITH PROPER REFERENCE TO LEADERSHIP
AND RESPONSIVENESS BETWEEN

Minister and Congregation

BY

REV. EDWARD HUNGERFORD

AUTHOR OF THE AMERICAN BOOK OF CHURCH SERVICES,

FREE PRESS ASSOCIATION,
BURLINGTON, VT.
1893.

Copyright, 1893,
By EDWARD HUNGERFORD.
All rights reserved.

PREFACE.

This Series of Responsive Readings is distinguished by two features. Throughout the series the leading thoughts are carefully assigned to the minister, and the portions given to the congregation are true responses to the sentiments advanced by him. This arrangement of parts is based on the liturgical principle, which makes the people in public worship responsive to the pastor. New themes, sudden changes of thought, and as far as possible minor suggestions proceed from him, and the congregation echoes the sentiment, or emphasizes it by assent or by setting up a contrast, or adds a closely related thought.

The Responsive Readings hitherto proposed have usually given the verses alternately to minister and congregation or divided the verses according to parallelism. Each of these methods involves serious infelicities. Reading by alternate verses often inverts the proper relation between leader and people. The verses fall to the one or the other without reference to responsiveness. No close or fixed relation of the parties is maintained, and the reading, which should be responsive, degenerates into an alternate reading, which through its unresponsiveness sometimes becomes painfully confusing.

Following the parallelisms, while less objectionable in this regard, introduces, under the rapid alternation of

short sentences, a staccato movement, which, when too freely indulged, detracts from the dignity and stateliness of public worship. A worse fault is that the utterances of the minister are often so incomplete as to be meaningless.

There seems to be no good reason for closely adhering to either of these plans. Verse divisions have no authority above that of convenience, and the common impression, that by following the parallelisms we are adopting the original responses of the Hebrew choirs in the temple service, is probably erroneous. The strophic divisions may have had quite as much to do with the choir responses.

For our purpose we secure a better result when we pass freely from parallelism to verse division, restrained neither by the one nor the other, but carefully seeking to distinguish the leading thought by giving it to the minister, while the congregation returns an answering thought. Once released from traditional bonds we are surprised to find how readily the psalms lend themselves to our purpose; what emphasis is given to important utterances by the echoes of the congregation; and to what extent the meaning and beauty of passages are brought out by the comments of the people. The instances in which a psalm does not yield to the method are exceedingly rare, though some psalms may require to be gone over many times, and the text subjected to a critical study before a satisfactory result can be secured. That this first attempt at such revision has involved protracted labor needs not to be said. I shall be rewarded if the result shall seem to the churches worth the effort, and if a more intelligent and more worship-

ful because truly responsive reading shall date from the introduction of this series.

I have retained in this work, for the most part, those groupings of the psalms and other scriptures into Selections, which were adopted in the Responsive Readings published in my American Book of Church Services. The same headings are used for single selections and for groups of selections. These have been found convenient aids to the pastor in his search for a reading appropriate to the occasion. The Index enables one to find under what selection a psalm or other scripture may be found.

The Strophic Divisions have been fixed by comparison of authorities, Delitzsch, Cheyne, Tholuck, DeWette and some others. As there is disagreement among authors in regard to the placing of strophic divisions, I have as a rule accepted none that were not sanctioned by at least two authorities. In many instances there is a general agreement.

The word "Lord" for Jehovah is, in this work, printed always in *lower case* because full faced type is not provided with small caps. To distinguish this use of the word from its use for Adon or Adonai, all instances of the latter use are marked by spacing thus, Lord. All interested in the matter will please note this necessary deviation from the usual practice.

Stars in the text show omissions.

The mark + at the bottom of a page shows that a strophic division falls there. Elsewhere such divisions are indicated by wider spacing.

EDWARD HUNGERFORD.

BURLINGTON, VT., May 3d, 1893.

Selections for Responsive Reading.

GOD IN NATURE AND IN HISTORY.

FIRST SELECTION.

God provides.

Ps. 104. Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, thou art very great ;

Thou art clothed with honor and majesty.

Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment ;

Who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain :

Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters ;

Who maketh the clouds his chariot ;

Who walketh upon the wings of the wind :

Who maketh the winds his messengers ;

His ministers a flaming fire :

Who laid the foundations of the earth,

That it should not be moved forever.

Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a vesture ;

The waters stood above the mountains.

At thy rebuke they fled ;

At the voice of thy thunder they hasted away ;

**They went up by the mountains, they went down by the
valleys,**

Unto the place which thou hadst founded for them.

Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over ;

That they turn not again to cover the earth.

He sendeth forth springs into the valleys ;

They run among the mountains :

They give drink to every beast of the field ;

The wild asses quench their thirst.