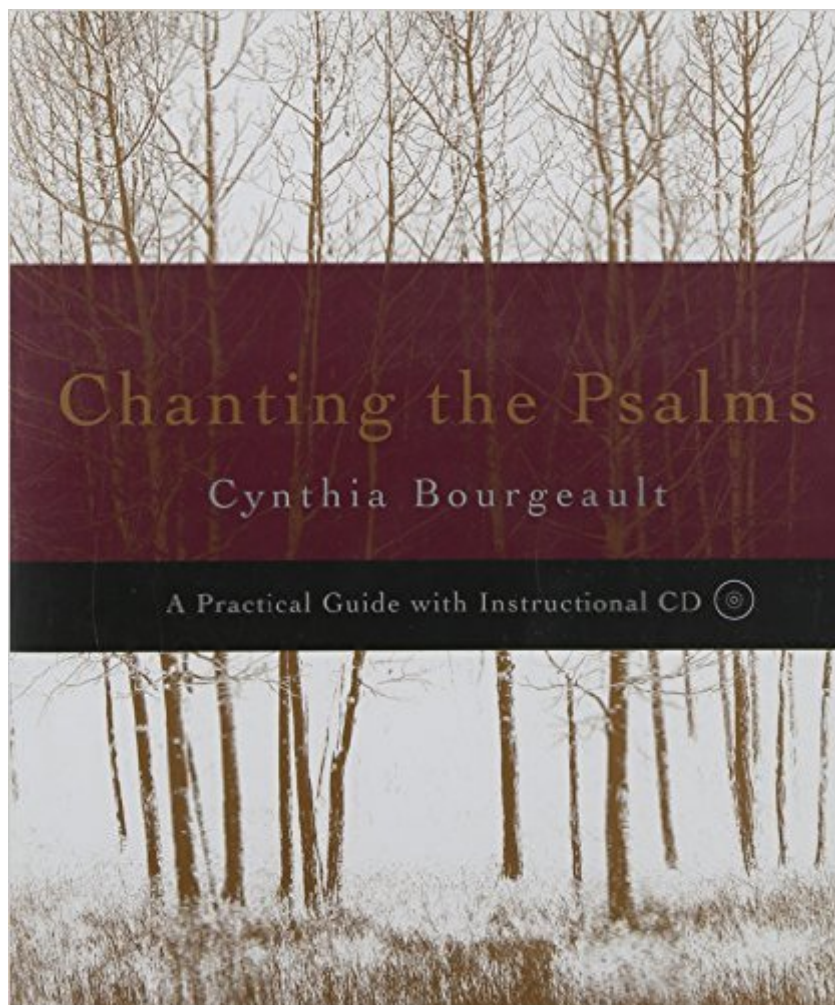


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# Chanting The Psalms: A Practical Guide With Instructional CD



## Synopsis

Chanting the psalms, or psalmody, is an ancient practice of vital importance in the Christian spiritual tradition. Today many think of it as a discipline that belongs only in monasteriesâ"but psalmody is a spiritual treasure that is available to anyone who prays. You donâ"t need to be musical or a monk to do it, and it can be enjoyed in church liturgical worship, in groups, or even individually as part of a personal rule of prayer. Cynthia Bourgeault brings the practice into the twenty-first century, providing a history of Christian psalmody as well as an appreciation of its place in contemplative practice today. And she teaches you how to do it as you chant along with her on the accompanying CD in which she demonstrates the basic techniques and easy melodies that anyone can learn. â œEven if you canâ"t read music,â • Cynthia says, â œor if somewhere along the way youâ"ve absorbed the message that your voice is no good or you canâ"t sing on pitch, Iâ"ll still hope to show you that chanting the psalms is accessible to nearly everyone.â •

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you are a Christian in the traditional sense then many parts of this book may offend you. A large portion of the book reads like an apologetic for New Age religious syncretism. For an Episcopal priest, or anyone else for that matter, to refer to God as "the G word", state that believing that Christ is the Messiah is responsible for the Holocaust, etc can't fail to offend many Christians. Attempting to make up for the irresponsible and tragic use of Christianity in the past by unscrupulous people by offending modern Christians and diminishing traditional Christian beliefs seems misguided. On a

practical note. I think that newcomers to chanting might be confused, more than helped, by this book. There are too many options, none of which are discussed in enough detail to be really helpful. And there were a few glaring errors. The one that springs to mind right away was assigning the clef in Gregorian chant to "middle C". It's not - it's "Do" (as in Do, Re, Me, etc). Gregorian notation shows the interval between notes, not the tone. One of the beauties of Gregorian notation is that you can assign any note as the "Do" tone to accommodate any choir or voice. If your interest is in Gregorian chant there are other, much better, books for learning it than this one. The book does have it's good parts. It is good at giving an overview of various forms of chant. This would be helpful for those that are interested in chant but don't know what kind of chant they would be most drawn to. However, the information on each type of chant is very limited so you would need to get additional sources no matter which chant type you choose. And there is a good amount of information on resources for further study, etc.

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