

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman

The Art of Public Prayer Lawrence A Hoffman

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman is a subject that invites us to explore the deeply nuanced and transformative aspects of communal worship and spiritual expression. Lawrence A. Hoffman, a renowned scholar, rabbi, and liturgist, has significantly influenced how we understand and approach public prayer, blending tradition with contemporary relevance. His work not only enriches the experience of prayer for individuals but also reshapes the collective encounter with sacred moments in communal settings.

Understanding the Foundations: Who is Lawrence A. Hoffman?

Before diving into the art of public prayer as Hoffman presents it, it's important to appreciate the mind behind this perspective. Lawrence A. Hoffman is an American rabbi and scholar whose expertise bridges liturgy, Jewish studies, and contemplative spirituality. With decades of experience teaching, writing, and leading prayer communities, Hoffman brings a unique voice that balances academic rigor with heartfelt spirituality.

His approach is not merely theoretical; it's deeply practical. Hoffman encourages a re-examination of the way public prayer is conducted, focusing on making it more meaningful, inclusive, and resonant for diverse audiences. This makes his work particularly relevant in today's multicultural and often fragmented spiritual landscapes.

The Art of Public Prayer: More Than Just Words

Public prayer is often seen as a set of prescribed words or rituals performed in a specific order. Hoffman challenges this limited view by emphasizing prayer as an art form—dynamic, living, and responsive to the community's needs and context.

The Role of Intention and Presence

At the heart of Hoffman's concept of public prayer is the importance of intention and presence. He argues that prayer is not effective simply because of the words recited but because of the genuine engagement of the participants. This engagement transforms prayer from a mechanical exercise into a powerful communal experience.

When leading or participating in public prayer, being fully present, attentive to the moment, and conscious of the collective energy can elevate the spiritual atmosphere. Hoffman's teachings invite leaders and congregants alike to cultivate mindfulness and openness, allowing prayer to become a shared journey rather than a rote obligation.

Balancing Tradition with Innovation

One of Hoffman's key contributions is his insistence on honoring tradition while also embracing innovation. He recognizes that the Jewish liturgical tradition is rich and deeply meaningful, but he also acknowledges that the way prayer is performed must evolve to remain relevant.

This balance is crucial for maintaining the vitality of public prayer. Hoffman proposes adaptations in language, melody, and format that respect the core values of the tradition but also speak to contemporary sensibilities. His work encourages prayer leaders to be creative, thoughtful, and sensitive to the spiritual needs of their communities.

Practical Insights from Lawrence A. Hoffman on Leading Public Prayer

For anyone interested in improving their skills as a prayer leader or understanding how to foster more meaningful group prayer, Hoffman's insights offer valuable guidance.

Creating an Inclusive Atmosphere

Hoffman stresses the importance of inclusivity in public prayer settings. This means being aware of the diversity within the congregation—cultural backgrounds, levels of religious knowledge, gender identities, and age differences—and adapting the prayer experience to engage everyone.

This inclusivity can be achieved by using accessible language, providing explanations of prayers and rituals, and encouraging participation in ways that feel comfortable for all. Hoffman's approach is about breaking down barriers that can make public prayer feel alienating or exclusive.

Utilizing Music and Chant

Music plays a significant role in Hoffman's understanding of public prayer. He sees melodies and chants not just as embellishments but as essential tools for deepening spiritual connection. Music helps anchor the words, making them resonate emotionally and spiritually.

Leaders inspired by Hoffman's teachings often incorporate traditional tunes alongside new compositions, creating a rich auditory tapestry that invites participants to enter the prayer more fully. This practice enhances communal bonding and can make the prayers more memorable and impactful.

The Importance of Storytelling and Reflection

Another distinctive element in Hoffman's approach is the integration of storytelling and reflection within the framework of public prayer. Stories—whether biblical, historical, or contemporary—serve as bridges

connecting ancient texts to modern life.

Reflection moments offer space for individual and collective contemplation, allowing the community to internalize the prayers' meanings and apply them to their own experiences. This method transforms prayer into a living dialogue rather than a static recital.

The Broader Impact of Hoffman's Work on Contemporary Worship

Lawrence A. Hoffman's influence extends beyond Jewish liturgy. His principles about public prayer have resonated with diverse faith communities and interfaith groups seeking more meaningful and participatory worship experiences.

Fostering Spiritual Community

At its core, Hoffman's art of public prayer is about building and nurturing spiritual community. He highlights how shared prayer can create bonds, foster empathy, and cultivate a sense of belonging. In a world often marked by division and isolation, this communal connection is increasingly vital.

Encouraging Personal Spiritual Growth

While public prayer is inherently communal, Hoffman reminds us that it also nurtures individual spiritual growth. By participating in thoughtfully crafted prayers, individuals can find moments of personal insight, healing, and inspiration. This dual focus enriches both the individual and the group.

How to Apply the Art of Public Prayer in Your Own Community

If you're inspired by Lawrence A. Hoffman's vision and want to bring more artistry and depth to public prayer in your community, here are some practical tips to consider:

- **Engage the heart and mind:** Encourage participants to understand the meaning behind the prayers, not just recite words.
- **Incorporate diverse musical elements:** Use familiar and new melodies to create a rich and inviting atmosphere.
- **Make space for reflection:** Include pauses or guided reflections to deepen the communal experience.
- **Be mindful of inclusivity:** Adapt language and rituals to be welcoming to everyone present.

- **Encourage storytelling:** Use narratives to connect prayers to real-life challenges and joys.
- **Practice presence:** Cultivate mindfulness as a leader or participant to bring sincerity and vitality to prayer.

By thoughtfully integrating these elements, communities can transform public prayer from a routine practice into a vibrant and meaningful art form.

The art of public prayer Lawrence A Hoffman promotes invites us to see prayer not just as an obligation, but as an opportunity for connection, creativity, and spiritual awakening. Whether you're a seasoned prayer leader or someone simply curious about the power of communal worship, embracing Hoffman's insights can open new doors to experiencing the sacred together.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Lawrence A. Hoffman?

Lawrence A. Hoffman is a renowned scholar of Jewish liturgy and prayer, known for his work on the history, theory, and practice of prayer, including his book 'The Art of Public Prayer.'

What is the main focus of 'The Art of Public Prayer' by Lawrence A. Hoffman?

'The Art of Public Prayer' explores the dynamics, challenges, and significance of communal prayer in Jewish tradition, examining how prayer functions as a form of public art and expression.

How does Lawrence A. Hoffman define public prayer in his book?

Hoffman defines public prayer as a collective, participatory act that involves a community coming together to express their beliefs, hopes, and emotions through structured liturgy and spontaneous expression.

What are some key themes discussed in 'The Art of Public Prayer'?

Key themes include the balance between tradition and innovation in prayer, the role of the congregation, the use of language and music, and the psychological and social impact of communal worship.

How does Hoffman address the role of the prayer leader in public prayer?

Hoffman emphasizes the prayer leader's role as a facilitator who guides the congregation, balancing authority with inclusivity to foster a meaningful and engaging worship experience.

What contributions has 'The Art of Public Prayer' made to contemporary Jewish liturgy?

The book has influenced modern approaches to Jewish prayer by encouraging creativity, inclusivity, and awareness of the communal and artistic dimensions of worship.

Can 'The Art of Public Prayer' be applied to other religious traditions?

Yes, while focused on Jewish prayer, Hoffman's insights into the communal, artistic, and performative aspects of public prayer can be relevant to other faith traditions exploring collective worship.

What is Lawrence A. Hoffman's approach to innovation in public prayer?

Hoffman advocates for thoughtful innovation that respects tradition while making prayer more accessible and meaningful to contemporary worshippers.

Where can one find more resources or lectures by Lawrence A. Hoffman on public prayer?

Resources and lectures by Hoffman can be found through academic institutions, Jewish educational organizations, and online platforms such as his official website, podcasts, and university lecture series.

Additional Resources

The Art of Public Prayer: Lawrence A. Hoffman's Insightful Exploration

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman offers a profound investigation into the complexities and nuances of communal spirituality and liturgical expression. As a prominent scholar in Jewish liturgy and theology, Hoffman brings a unique perspective to understanding how public prayer functions not only as a religious act but also as a cultural and social phenomenon. This article delves into Hoffman's seminal contributions to the study of public prayer, highlighting his analytical methods, thematic concerns, and the wider implications for religious communities and scholars alike.

Understanding Public Prayer Through Hoffman's Lens

Lawrence A. Hoffman, a distinguished professor and author, has long been regarded as an authority on Jewish liturgy and prayer. His work on the art of public prayer transcends mere ritual analysis by focusing on the lived experience of prayer and its role in shaping communal identity. Hoffman's approach combines historical scholarship with a deep sensitivity to the emotional and psychological dimensions of public worship.

Unlike many traditional studies that prioritize textual exegesis or doctrinal

orthodoxy, Hoffman investigates the performative and interactive aspects of public prayer. He explores how prayers are crafted, adapted, and received within diverse communities, emphasizing the dynamic between individual expression and collective participation. This holistic perspective positions public prayer as an evolving art form that reflects the values, struggles, and aspirations of its practitioners.

The Role of Creativity in Public Prayer

One of Hoffman's key contributions highlighted in his writings is the concept of creativity in public prayer. He argues that prayer is not a static repetition of fixed formulas but a living dialogue that invites innovation while respecting tradition. Hoffman illustrates how liturgists and prayer leaders navigate this tension by incorporating new poetic elements, contemporary language, and inclusive themes into established frameworks.

This creative engagement serves multiple purposes:

- Enhancing emotional resonance and spiritual connection among congregants
- Addressing contemporary social and ethical issues through prayer
- Fostering inclusivity by acknowledging diverse identities and experiences

By foregrounding creativity, Hoffman challenges rigid perceptions of liturgical practice, opening pathways for more meaningful and relevant public worship experiences.

Public Prayer as a Social and Cultural Act

Hoffman's exploration extends beyond the purely religious dimensions of prayer to examine its social and cultural functions. Public prayer, in his view, acts as a form of communal storytelling and identity formation. It creates a shared space where values are affirmed and collective memory is preserved.

He highlights several features that characterize public prayer as a social act:

1. **Communal Participation:** Public prayer requires active involvement from a group, fostering a sense of belonging and mutual responsibility.
2. **Ritual Structure:** The patterned nature of prayers provides stability and continuity, anchoring communities across time and place.
3. **Emotional Expression:** Prayer offers an outlet for communal grief, joy, hope, and repentance, reinforcing social bonds.

These dimensions underscore the importance of public prayer not only as a

spiritual exercise but also as a vital mechanism for cultural cohesion and resilience.

Analyzing Hoffman's Methodology and Impact

Lawrence A. Hoffman employs a multidisciplinary methodology that combines theology, anthropology, psychology, and literary criticism. This integrative approach allows him to dissect public prayer from various angles, enriching the understanding of its multifaceted nature.

Textual and Contextual Analysis

Hoffman pays meticulous attention to the textual elements of prayer, including language, structure, and symbolism. However, he situates these elements within their broader socio-historical contexts, recognizing that prayers evolve in response to changing communal needs and historical circumstances. This dual focus helps illuminate why certain prayers resonate differently across time and communities.

Participant Observation and Ethnographic Insights

Beyond textual study, Hoffman incorporates ethnographic methods, observing prayer practices in diverse settings. This real-world engagement reveals how the art of public prayer is enacted and experienced in everyday life, highlighting variations in style, emphasis, and reception. Such insights contribute to a richer, more grounded understanding of liturgical dynamics.

The Relevance of Hoffman's Work Today

In an era marked by increasing religious pluralism and shifting cultural norms, Hoffman's insights into the art of public prayer remain highly relevant. His emphasis on adaptability and creativity offers valuable guidance to religious leaders seeking to engage contemporary congregations while honoring tradition.

Addressing Modern Challenges in Public Prayer

Modern religious communities face several challenges that Hoffman's work helps to address:

- **Diversity and Inclusion:** As congregations become more diverse, public prayer must accommodate multiple identities and perspectives without diluting core spiritual messages.
- **Secularization and Relevance:** Amid growing secular influences, public prayer needs to resonate with individuals who may question traditional religious forms.

- **Technological Impact:** The rise of digital worship spaces introduces new dynamics for public prayer, requiring innovative approaches to communal participation.

Hoffman's framework encourages liturgists and leaders to view these challenges as opportunities for renewing and enriching public prayer.

Comparative Perspectives on Public Prayer

While Hoffman's primary focus is Jewish liturgy, his analytical tools are applicable across religious traditions. Comparing his ideas with liturgical practices in Christianity, Islam, and other faiths reveals common themes such as the balance between tradition and innovation, the social functions of prayer, and the role of leadership in shaping worship.

Such cross-cultural comparisons deepen appreciation for the universal human impulse to express spirituality collectively and artistically.

Key Features of the Art of Public Prayer According to Lawrence A. Hoffman

To summarize the essential characteristics of public prayer as illuminated by Hoffman's scholarship:

- **Dynamic Interaction:** Public prayer is a dialogic process involving both leaders and congregants.
- **Creative Adaptation:** Prayer evolves to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of communities.
- **Communal Identity:** Prayer fosters and reflects shared values, memories, and aspirations.
- **Emotional Engagement:** It provides a structured venue for expressing a wide range of human emotions.
- **Ritual Continuity:** Despite innovation, prayer maintains continuity with historical traditions.

These features collectively define public prayer as an art form that is both deeply rooted and richly transformative.

The art of public prayer Lawrence A. Hoffman explores reveals the profound layers of meaning embedded within communal worship. His scholarship encourages ongoing reflection about how prayer functions in contemporary religious life, inviting practitioners and scholars alike to appreciate the complexity and beauty of this enduring spiritual practice.

The Art Of Public Prayer Lawrence A Hoffman

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: The Art of Public Prayer Lawrence A. Hoffman, 1999 A resource for worshipers today looking to change hardened worship patterns that stand in the way of everyday spirituality. All too often, those who attend church or synagogue find themselves bored or baffled by the service. Their predominant thought is how slowly the time ticks by--and that the service never seems to end. Written for laypeople and clergy of any denomination, *The Art of Public Prayer* examines how and why religious ritual works--and why it often doesn't work. The *Art of Public Prayer* uses psychology, social science, theology and common sense to explain the key roles played by ritual, symbolism, liturgy and song in services. Each chapter features conversation points designed to get you and your faith community thinking and talking about your own worship patterns--where they succeed, and where they need improvement. The *Art of Public Prayer* can help you and your fellow congregants revitalize your worship service by allowing you to organize and direct your own worship, making it a meaningful and fulfilling part of your life.

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: Doing Jewish Theology Rabbi Neil Gillman, PhD, 2011-02-07 An Intellectually Rich and Challenging Exploration of Modern Jewish Theology How we deal with revelation determines how we handle the issue of authority in belief and practice. How we understand authority determines how we deal with the claims of the tradition on us; how we deal with those claims determines how we shape our own Judaism. That conclusion opens the gate to a reconsideration of all of Judaism's theology, in particular how we understand God, for God is at the heart of Torah. —from the Introduction With clarity and passion, award-winning teacher, author and theologian Neil Gillman captures the power of Jewish theological claims and reveals extraordinary insights into Jewish identity, the purpose of religion, and our relationship with God. Drawing from Judaism's sacred texts as well as great thinkers such as Mordecai Kaplan, Abraham Joshua Heschel, and Paul Tillich, Gillman traces his theological journey over four decades of study, beginning with his own understanding of revelation. He explores the role of symbol and myth in our understanding of the nature of God and covenant. He examines the importance of community in both determining authority and sanctifying sacred space. By charting the development of his own personal theology, Gillman explores the evolution of Jewish thought and its implications for modern Jewish religious identity today and in the future.

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: The Wisdom of Judaism Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins, 2011-06-24 Discover the Talmud and its universal values for all people. While the Hebrew Bible is the cornerstone of Judaism, it is the Talmud that provides many central values for living. The Talmud sets out specific guidelines and lyrical admonitions regarding many of life's ordinary events, and offers profound words of advice for life's most intractable dilemmas. This accessible introduction to the Talmud explores the essence of Judaism through reflections on the words of the rabbinic sages, from one of American Judaism's foremost teachers and writers, Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins. Dr. Elkins provides fresh insight into ancient aphorisms and shows you how they can be applied to your life today. Topics include: Kindness through Giving, Welcoming and Sharing; Human Relationships; Personal Values; Family Values; Teaching and Learning; and Life's Puzzles. Enlightening and inspiring, the values of the Talmud can be appreciated not just by Jews, but by anyone seeking a greater understanding of life and its mysteries.

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: The Way Into Torah Dr. Norman J. Cohen, 2012-01-09 An accessible introduction to how to read, study, and understand Torah—the Bible and related sacred texts that have grown up around it. For everyone who wants to understand Torah, this book shows the way into an essential aspect of Judaism, and allows you to interact directly with the sacred texts of the Jewish tradition. Guided by Dr. Norman J. Cohen, rabbi and professor of midrash at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, *The Way Into Torah* helps us explore the origins and development of Torah, why it should be studied, and how to do it. What Torah is. The texts, and beyond: Not simply the Five Books of Moses, Torah refers to much more than written

words. The different approaches to studying Torah. The many ways Jews have interacted with Torah through the ages and how, by learning to read Torah ourselves, we can connect it to our lives today. The levels of understanding Torah. How Torah can come alive in different ways, at different times; and how new meanings of Torah are discovered by its readers. Why Torah study is a part of the Jewish experience. How it allows us to experience God's presence—and why the Rabbis called Torah study more important even than belief in God. This guide offers an entrance into the world of Torah, and to its meaning for our lives. The Way Into Torah shows us why reading Torah is not the same as reading anything else—and enables us to become a part of a chain of Jewish tradition that began millennia ago, and remains unbroken today.

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: *Healing of Soul, Healing of Body* Simkha Y. Weintraub, 1994 A source of solace and a healing resource for those who are facing illness, as well as those who care for them. For centuries, people have turned to the Book of Psalms for solace, comfort and catharsis, seeking guidance, meaning, hope and reassurance—in short, spiritual healing. This book is intended to help you—struggling with illness or helping someone who is—derive spiritual healing from Psalms. In the late 18th century, Rabbi Nachman of Breslov designated ten of the 150 entries in the Book of Psalms as healing psalms, and we present these ten to you, newly translated, for your personal exploration and expression. Acknowledging that the Biblical Psalms can be somewhat alien to many people, we asked ten spiritual leaders to provide a bridge, a form of access, to these ancient poems of pain and praise, of humility and hope. --from the Introduction
Contributors: Rabbi Eugene B. Borowitz * Rabbi Rachel Cowan * Rabbi Amy Eilberg * Rabbi Nancy Flam * Rabbi Irving Greenberg * Rabbi Maurice Lamm * Rabbi Charles Sheer * Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis * Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler * Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg * Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub * Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: *Jewish Liturgy* Ruth Langer, 2015-03-06 How do Jews pray and why? What do the prayers mean? From where did this liturgy come and what challenges does it face today? Such questions and many more, spanning the centuries and continents, have driven the study of Jewish liturgy. But just as the liturgy has changed over time, so too have the questions asked, the people asking them, and the methods used to address them. *Jewish Liturgy: A Guide to Research* enables the reader to access the rich bibliography now available in English. In this volume, Ruth Langer, an expert on Jewish liturgy, provides an annotated description of the most important books and articles on topics ranging historically from the liturgy of the Second Temple period and the Dead Sea Scrolls to today, addressing the synagogue itself and those gathered in it; the daily, weekly, and festival liturgies and their components; home rituals and the life cycle; as well as questions of liturgical performance and theology. Introductions to every section orient the reader and provide necessary background. Christians seeking to understand Jewish liturgy, either that of Jesus and the early church or that of their Jewish contemporaries, will find this volume invaluable. It's also an important reference for anyone seeking to understand how Jews worship God and how that worship has evolved over time.

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: *The Women's Seder Sourcebook* Tara Mohr, Catherine Spector, Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, 2011-11-23 With diverse and robust voices, women are reclaiming their place at the seder table. This complete sourcebook and guide shows you how to do it, too. For the first time, contemporary Jewish women's writings on the Passover seder are gathered in one comprehensive and compelling sourcebook—an unprecedented and powerful resource for those planning a women's seder and those seeking to infuse their Passover celebration with the creative and courageous voices of Jewish women. Arranged according to the order of the seder, this practical guide gathers the voices of more than one hundred women in readings, personal and creative reflections, commentaries, blessings and ritual suggestions that can be incorporated into your Passover celebration as supplements to or substitutes for traditional passages of the haggadah. It also includes a detailed guide to planning a women's seder, based on information from successful seder organizers around the world. Whether you are organizing a women's seder in your community or planning a family seder in your home, this inspiring and accessible resource will help

you take an active role in re-creating the educational and spiritual experience of Passover—and in shaping Judaism's future. Contributors include: Dr. Rachel Adler • Dr. Rebecca T. Alpert • Rabbi Renni S. Altman • Zoe Baird Dr. Evelyn Torton Beck • Susan Berrin • Senator Barbara Boxer • Dr. Esther Broner Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin • Tamara Cohen • Anita Diamant • Dr. Carol Diamant Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, PhD • Eve Ensler • Dr. Marcia Falk • Merle Feld Rabbi Susan P. Fendrick • Rabbi Tirzah Firestone • Dr. Ellen Frankel • Nan Fink Gefen Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg • Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb • Dr. Susannah Heschel Rabbi Karyn D. Kedar • Rabbi Naamah Kelman • Naomi Klein • Irena Klepfisz Maxine Kumin • Rabbi Noa Rachel Kushner • Rabbi Joy Levitt • Hadassah Lieberman Ruth W. Messinger • Dr. Faye Moskowitz • Joan Nathan • Dr. Alicia Suskin Ostriker Dr. Judith Plaskow • Marge Piercy • Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen • Anne Roiphe Danya Ruttenberg • Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso • The Honorable Jan Schakowsky Rabbi Susan Schnur • Rabbi Susan Silverman • Dr. Ellen M. Umansky Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg • Dr. Chava Weissler • Cantor Lorel Zar-Kessler

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: Lectio Divina--The Sacred Art Christine Valters Paintner, 2011-05-27 Break open this ancient contemplative practice of listening deeply for God's voice in sacred texts. Drawing on her own experience as a monk in the world, Christine Valters Paintner introduces the foundations for a practice of lectio divina. She closely examines each of the four movements of lectio divina as well as the rhythm they create when practiced as a process.

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the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: *Talking about God* Daniel F. Polish, 2007 Challenge Yourself to Delve into a Deeper Interfaith Dialogue To wrestle with the ideas these thinkers present is to find ourselves challenged to look at our own religious lives in new ways; and to appreciate the spiritual endeavors of others, whatever form their religious expression may take. To engage with these thinkers can leave us enlarged in our perception of human religiousness and deepened in our appreciation of it. --from the Conclusion The modern age of religion is characterized by dialogue. Jews and Christians together explore the realities and meaning of living in proximity to one another. Yet for all the good will and sincerity of intention, too often such discussions fail to progress beyond well-intentioned pleasantries to the challenging content that can truly deepen our understanding of each other. This fascinating and accessible introduction to the theologies of four modern religious thinkers will help you break through the superficial generalities to plumb the depths of religious differences and embrace the commonalities. Examining the lives and works of Søren Kierkegaard, Martin Buber, Paul Tillich and Abraham Joshua Heschel through the lens of their treatment of the Bible and the biblical patriarch Abraham, you will take part in a discussion of the very phenomenon of religion and what part it plays in living a fully engaged human life.

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: **The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness** Rabbi Rami Shapiro, 2012-12-14 Open your heart and mind and discover—through the sacred art of lovingkindness—the image and likeness of God in yourself and others. The question at the heart of this book is this: Will you engage this moment with kindness or with cruelty, with love or with fear, with generosity or scarcity, with a joyous heart or an embittered one? This is your choice and no one

can make it for you.... Heaven and hell are both inside of you. It is your choice that determines just where you reside.” —from the Introduction We are all born in the image of God, but living out the likeness of God is a choice. This inspiring, practical guidebook provides you with the tools you need to realize the divinity within yourself, recognize the divinity within others, and act on the obligation to manifest God’s infinite compassion in your own life. Guided by Rabbi Rami Shapiro, you will explore Judaism’s Thirteen Attributes of Lovingkindness as the framework for cultivating a life of goodness. Shapiro translates these attributes into practices—drawn from the teachings of a variety of faith traditions—that allow you to actualize God’s glory through personal deeds of lovingkindness. You will enrich your own capacity for lovingkindness as you: Harvest kindness through compassionate honesty Make room in your heart for reality Recognize the manifestations of God Embrace the paradoxical truth of not-knowing Be present in the moment Do right by others With candor, wit, and honesty, Shapiro shows you that by choosing to act out of love rather than fear, with kindness rather than anger, you can transform how you perceive the world and ultimately lead a more complete spiritual life.

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the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: Secrets of Prayer Nancy Corcoran, 2007 We Are All Learners, Struggling to Pray Prayer can be intimidating. The idea of speaking directly to God can leave you tongue-tied, not sure what words to use, how to begin or how to end. This compelling, multifaith guidebook offers you companionship and encouragement on the journey to a healthy prayer life. Unlocking six secrets about what prayer actually is, it invites you into the practices of prayer, meditation and contemplation, showing you that prayer doesn't have to be perfect, it doesn't need formulas and it doesn't have to be planned. Discover secrets that will expand your prayer life: There Are Multiple Ways of Experiencing the Holy Your Body Is a Source of Energy for Prayer Your Senses Are Vehicles of Prayer Diversity Nourishes Prayer Interconnectedness Gives Prayer Life To Learn about Prayer, You Need to Pray

the art of public prayer lawrence a hoffman: Missional Worship, Worshipful Mission Ruth A. Meyers, 2014-12-12 Too many Christians still think that worship is only a Sunday-morning activity done inside the church, while mission involves how the church engages the outside world. But Ruth Meyers argues that a dynamic relationship exists between worship and mission -- that gathering as God's people includes at its heart our being sent out into the world in God's name. Meyers explores this relationship by taking readers through the various parts of the worship service:

gathering, proclaiming the Word, praying for the world, celebrating the Eucharist, and going forth to continue participating in God's mission in the world. In each chapter Meyers includes stories of worship practices in different churches and considers how the actions of worship relate integrally to mission. *Missional Worship, Worshipful Mission* emphasizes that missional worship is not a set of techniques but rather an approach to worship and congregational life in which God's mission permeates every aspect of what the church does.

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