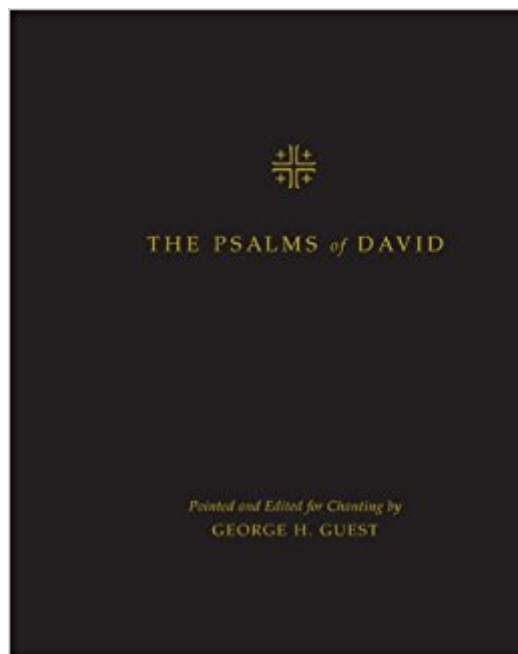




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# The Psalms Of David: Pointed And Edited For Chanting By George H. Guest



## Synopsis

Tunes in this Psalter were collected by Dr. George Guest during his 40 year tenure as Organist and Choirmaster of St. John's College, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England. They are arranged according to the 1928 Book of Common Prayer of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, and are pointed for chanting."Informed by a quiet but profound spirituality, Dr. Guest directed the music at St. John's College, Cambridge University for 40 years until his retirement in 1991, where he was university organist (1974-91) and lecturer (1956-82). Guest often remarked that you can only reach a man's head through his heart. It is not therefore surprising that, as the years went on, the chanting of the psalms became an ever more considered and thoughtful meditation. He realized that the Anglican Evensong was the Church of England's greatest gift to the Christian world. It was his genius to give a unique and abiding expression to that liturgy that will live for generations to come."

John Gummer, The Guardian

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The tradition of Anglican chant is one of the most lovely and satisfying aspects of the church music in the last two centuries. This book of psalms, collected and pointed by by George Guest contains a wonderful selection. It has also been beatifully produced by Paraclete Press,on high quality paper and in a large, clear format in which it can actually be used by a organist or singer(s). Even better, Paraclete also offers CDs of these same Psalms by Gloria Dei Cantores which potentially makes them even more accessible to a church music program or psalm lover..I treasured a cassette tape

of some of these psalms for many years. Now, I am very much looking forward to singing along. An excellent gift item for a church musician or lover of the chant!

Anglican chant is certainly the most beautiful forms of delivering the Psalms that we have today. If you are just starting out with Anglican chant or are a seasoned pro, you'll want to have this book within reach at all times! This is a collection of chant tunes that has been pointed and edited by George Guest using the Psalms as they appear in the 1928 Book of Common Prayer. While there are some differences in the text between the 1982 and the 1928, at a glance, they are all fairly minor differences. The best part about this book is the quality of the chant tunes. They are elegant, tuneful, well-written, and generally avoid chromaticism. That said, the tunes--when executed properly--will be vibrant and full of life when sung to the text of the Psalms. As an added bonus, as a Spotify user, it's great to see that some of the chants that I've listened to on Spotify--and other music sources--appear in this book, and it's been fun to sing along! The quality of the book, pages, and binding are excellent. The only drawback is that the book will not lay flat on a piano stand, so you'll have to be creative in how you work that out (I use a paperweight and it works well). The music engraving is very, very good: clear, easy-to-read, and well-spaced. I'm fairly new to Anglican chant (really just started studying/singing it in the past 3 or 4 years), and the pointing is a bit different than what I've been used to seeing. If you have the *Anglican Chant Psalter*, you'll see a few differences in how the pointing is done. There is a brief tutorial at the beginning of the book that describes how to read this style of pointing, and it's easy to get if you're at all familiar with other styles of pointing. If you've never done Anglican chant before, it might take a bit of figuring out. I'd suggest looking up the Psalm number and the composer of the tune on YouTube--if there's a performance, that'll be the quickest way for a newbie to catch on to how the pointing works. I give this book 5 stars, for sure! It was very carefully put together and crafted with the utmost care from beginning to end. This will bring a lifetime of joy to those who use it.

Well constructed and comprehensive book of Psalms put to music. Looking forward to using this book and singing the Psalms with my church choir. The recordings by Gloriam Cantores are a very useful supplement for this book.

GG the consummate musician and inspiration. Much missed.

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