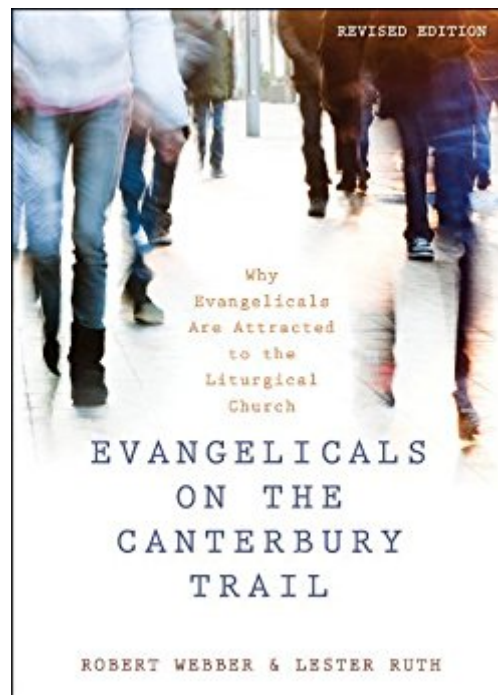




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# Evangelicals On The Canterbury Trail: Why Evangelicals Are Attracted To The Liturgical Church



## Synopsis

Why do so many evangelicals flock to liturgical traditions today? An updated edition of the classic study. With new testimonies from evangelicals who have joined the Anglican fold and discussion of the emerging/missional church movement, and an update to the conversation by evangelical scholar and pastor Lester Ruth, this thoughtful and engaging book reviews Anglicanism's six great gifts: mystery and awe, Christ-centered worship, sacramental reality, historical identity, participation in catholic traditions and holistic spirituality. In this edition, Ruth adds fresh stories from evangelicals who have followed Robert Webber's footsteps on the Canterbury trail, along with new essays that highlight the diversity of Anglican expressions today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A wonderful account of what draws individuals from more evangelical traditions into more liturgical traditions, specifically Anglican. Webber's own reasoning is sound and eye-opening, while the

account of his journey and the journeys of others in the following chapters will grab the hearts and minds of the reader. Webber (and Lester Ruth in this edition) isn't evangelizing Anglicanism, but explaining the draw to himself and others, and this allows the reader to really explore the tradition without feeling pressed to leave their tradition for another at the end. Exceptionally well-written, this is a must read for anyone with the slightest interest in varying traditions, and I can say that it made a particularly strong impact on me.

This was unexpectedly enjoyable to read. I bought it expecting to learn some things, but it was encouraging to me beyond expectation. I found more in it that I personally could relate to than I thought I would. The author's style was engaging. I'm very glad I bought the book and I would recommend it to others who may have found the liberalization of their church was making them feel alienated. The church of believers still exists and is still active. You may have to search to find them but I believe it is worth it. I suppose I am on the first step of that search.

Good read. I borrowed the book and then decided it was important to have in my library. I have been an evangelical all my life until I wasn't. That transition occurred about 2 years ago. This is a good transitional book that helped me to understand my journey was not a solo. The testimonials are good although they seem to come from people who have similar backgrounds. Regardless, a good and insightful read.

For those not on the Canterbury Trail, this book will clarify why liturgy and an appreciation of the 'mystery' of God 'which passes all understanding' has strengthened and brought focus to many evangelicals. Once-empty words and ceremonies find a meaning which is new to the believer, yet are as old as the Church itself. Though he is now an Episcopal priest, the author says that he still finds God and his people at a Baptist praise service.

...of a very important book. I read the original in seminary and felt for the first time that I might not be nuts, that the Lord might really be behind my longing for the reverence and mystery and pageantry of liturgical/sacramental Christianity. I read it as a young Pentecostal preacher and felt the call. Twelve years later, as an Anglican (Reformed Episcopal) priest and student of Robert Webber's Institute, I heartily welcome and recommend Dr. Ruth's revision. Despite the changes in the Episcopal Church since Webber's writing, Anglicanism is growing; many of us followed this among other signposts along the way into the historic faith. Now Ruth raises some important new signposts

inspired by Webber's "children". The Trail is becoming a Highway.

This slim volume is terrific and I only wish that I had discovered it 20 years ago. It gives an interesting perspective on US evangelicals approaching and embracing Anglicanism. Its only weakness is that it fails to acknowledge the strong strain of evangelicalism in the English Anglican church. Having said that, it covers a number of key issues and identifies how Anglican worship is christologically centred and essentially evangelical. It also notes how lack-lustre much worship is in the American evangelical scene. It covers a number of other key theological themes. I found it refreshing as someone who grew up in Australian evangelical Anglican churches and who finds Anglican worship a tad tired. It re-inforced the importance of good liturgy as against the passing fads of self centred worship. I look forward to reading webber's later work.

Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail: Why Evangelicals Are Attracted to the Liturgical ChurchBy:

Robert E. WebberArticle written by: rm Kocak (read the complete article & more on my blog, [...])"Why would I, the son of a Baptist minister, become an Episcopalian? Why would I, a graduate of Bob Jones University, walk the Canterbury Trail? Why would I, an ordained minister of the Reformed Presbyterian denomination, forsake my orders? Why would I, a professor at a main-line evangelical college, risk misunderstanding and put my career in a possible jeopardy to follow my heart?"- Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail - page 11.In Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail, Robert Webber (and friends) seek to answer the question of "Why." He tells his personal testimony of the journey into liturgical worship in a way that doesn't suggest a superiority of the Anglican tradition over any others. The entire book is highly personal in its tone and invites the reader to join with the author on his liturgical journey.The Book is broken up into three distinct parts:Why the Anglican Tradition?Six Pilgrims Share Their StoriesThe Church of the Future.During the first part of the book, Webber takes you on his own sacramental journey and what attracted him to liturgical worship. To that end Webber gives six themes or motifs in his journey: a return to mystery, a longing for the experience of Worship, a desire of sacramental reality, the search for spiritual identity, embracing the whole church, and growing into a holistic spirituality. In the second portion Webber invites six other evangelicals who have made similar pilgrimages to share their story. Finally, Webber concludes in a brief chapter in Part 3 with the renewal movement within liturgical worship. Webber stresses that evangelicals can bring a lot of beneficial elements into the liturgical tradition and not forsake an "evangelical identity" for a "liturgical identity."THE BIG IDEA:EXPERIENCING WORSHIP"It amazes me that I went through seminary without a course in worship, without any

professor asking me to address the question: What is worship all about ... My longing for more satisfying worship grew as each route I took in worship led me to a dead-end street."- pg. 36. The desire for an experiential, mysterious, and sacramental reality in worship drips from the beginning chapters, as Webber reflects on mystery, experience, and sacramental reality in liturgical worship. This journey is rooted for Weber in a visit to a Roman Catholic worship service before Easter, the worship of the early church fathers, and hosting "Agape meals" with students and friends. Seed Idea #1 DISCOVERING A SPIRITUAL IDENTITY "I was introduced to the "Trail of Blood" theory. True Christians, it was argued, always stood outside the established church."-pg 59 Webber comments on how he felt divorced from the greater Christian body of believers. Webber was indoctrinated to believe that a true Christian was to stand outside the organized religions of Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox, and mainline Protestant denominations. Webber boldly discusses how he was rooted in the pride of the Puritans against Anglicans and Lutherans for what they perceive to be "rags of popery" and against Anabaptists for their pacifism. He said all these biases were good and fine until he would actually meet an Arminian, Lutheran, Anabaptist, or Roman Catholic who was devout in the Christian faith. Seed Idea #2 EUCHARISTIC SPIRITUALITY "Eucharistic Spirituality is the experience of being spiritually nourished and strengthened by eating the bread and drinking the wine... The mystery of what Christ did for me on the cross reaches into my inner person in a way that I cannot describe."- Pg. 83. Webber has a chapter on "Growing into a Holistic Spirituality" that really captures the essence of having a spirituality of experience; namely, to be in Christ. Both justification and sanctification are communicated at the Lord's Supper in a tangible, physical way. Webber also shows the spirituality of experience in following the church year as a personal devotion. Ancient-Future Worship: Proclaiming and Enacting God's Narrative Liturgical Theology: The Church as Worshiping Community

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