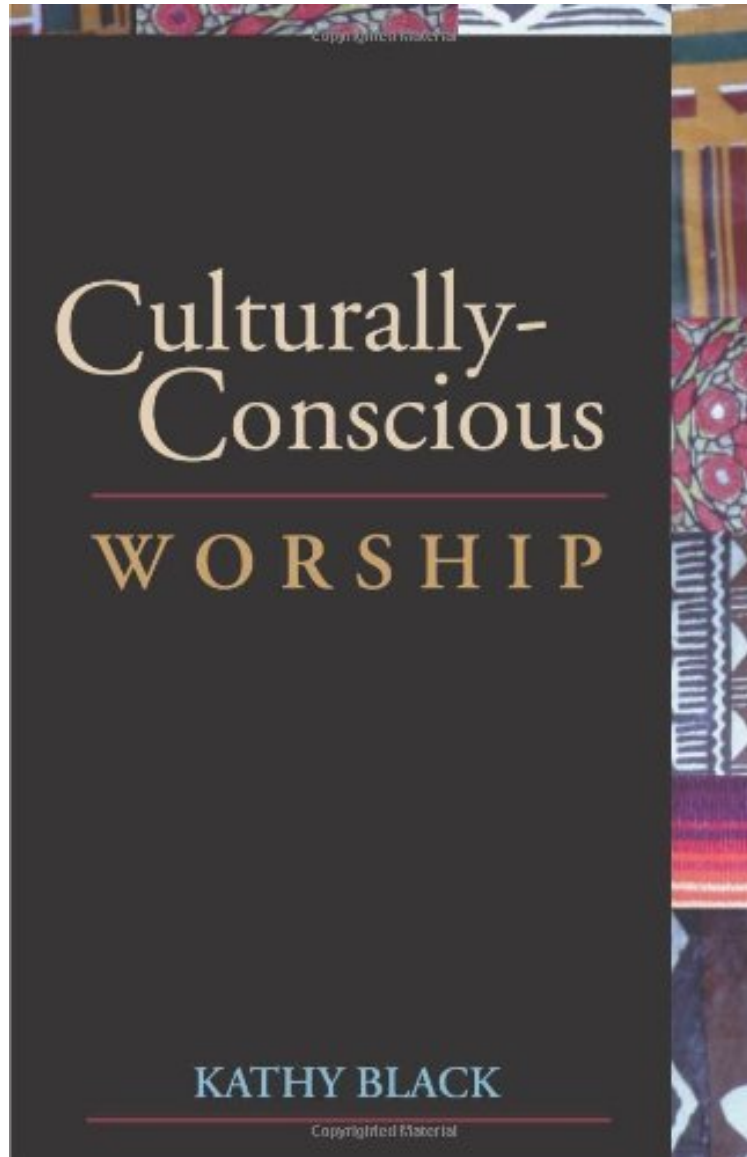


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Culturally-Conscious Worship

Von Dr Kathleen M. Black

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Von Dr Kathleen M. Black : Culturally-Conscious Worship before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Culturally-Conscious Worship:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Useful and thought provoking Von Fr Kurt Messick Kathy Black's book on culturally-conscious worship is one that has been used at my seminary in liturgy and practical ministry courses. One of the things that is of constant surprise to me is the

difficulty in putting together worship services that are meaningful to everyone who attends (or is likely to attend). I grew up with a fairly broad experience of what 'church' looked like - my father being in the military, I didn't have a set home for a long time, and the church/worship experiences I encountered were often at the direction of ecumenical chaplains. Perhaps this explains why I am today an ecumenical chaplain. However, this kind of worship does not come simply by grafting together things that are common to the most people who attend. That kind of haphazard approach is in fact detrimental to a true worship experience, and often reflect only the worship leader's idea of what a broad ministry should be. Kathy Black's title comes from a term devised by Mary Kraus, a bit distinct from the more typical 'multi-cultural worship' term most often used. Black argues that even in the most homogenous European-American or African-American services, the heart of the worship experience is multicultural in any case, often without the congregation being aware of it. Hymns from many different cultural backgrounds, a liturgy formed in Judaic practices, prayers that come from African and European sources in the early days of Christian experience - all of these things have formed a way of 'doing church' that we recognise as our own. Multiculturalism can work even without specific intentions. However, this is a process that is long and hard, and the idea of intentionally crafting services that reach out to more people is a good one, fully in keeping with the evangelical/missionary aspects of Christian vocation. Some multicultural experiences exist in separate services under the same roof; others try to add elements from different populations into the same service. Black in her early chapter sets out definitions carefully. What is meant by terms such as race, ethnicity, culture, even multiculturalism? Without knowing specifically what is being talked about, it becomes difficult to apply the ideas. Communication is at the core of the text; Black states, 'In worship, communication happens on a variety of levels.' Some of these are intentional, and some are at cross-purposes. Black sets out a list of questions worth considering in the quest for culturally-conscious worship. Black is a good theologian, exploring issues from a biblical basis as well as traditional and theological paradigms to see what it is we do in worship, as well as what we are able to incorporate and still be faithful to our vocation. Cultural differences are often more troublesome than more directly theological ones - issues such as formality vs. informality, the status of children, individuals in community, and personal space, timing, rhythm and other physical aspects can play a big role. All of these are addressed. Black ends the text by looking at some specific foundations for liturgical work. She sets out to strike a balance, in terms of symbols, teaching, comfort levels, as well as 'the horizontal and the vertical' - the relationships that extend out into the congregation (horizontal) and the relationships that extend from the congregation, both individual and corporate, up to God (vertical). 'If we can live with different stories simultaneously, it allows for each person (regardless of one's cultural or denominational background) to access the vertical and horizontal aspects of worship in ways that make God's presence most alive for them.' Black's text is useful and thought-provoking for those who design worship, those who participate in worship, and those who want a fuller experience for all and for themselves in worship.

Kurzbeschreibung Black uses shared stories, blended music, and the arts to enliven worship in culturally and linguistically diverse congregations. She provides biblical and theological foundations and practical methods and models for creating culturally-conscious worship. **Kurzbeschreibung** Black uses shared stories, blended music, and the arts to enliven worship in culturally and linguistically diverse congregations. She provides biblical and theological foundations and practical methods and models for creating culturally-conscious worship.