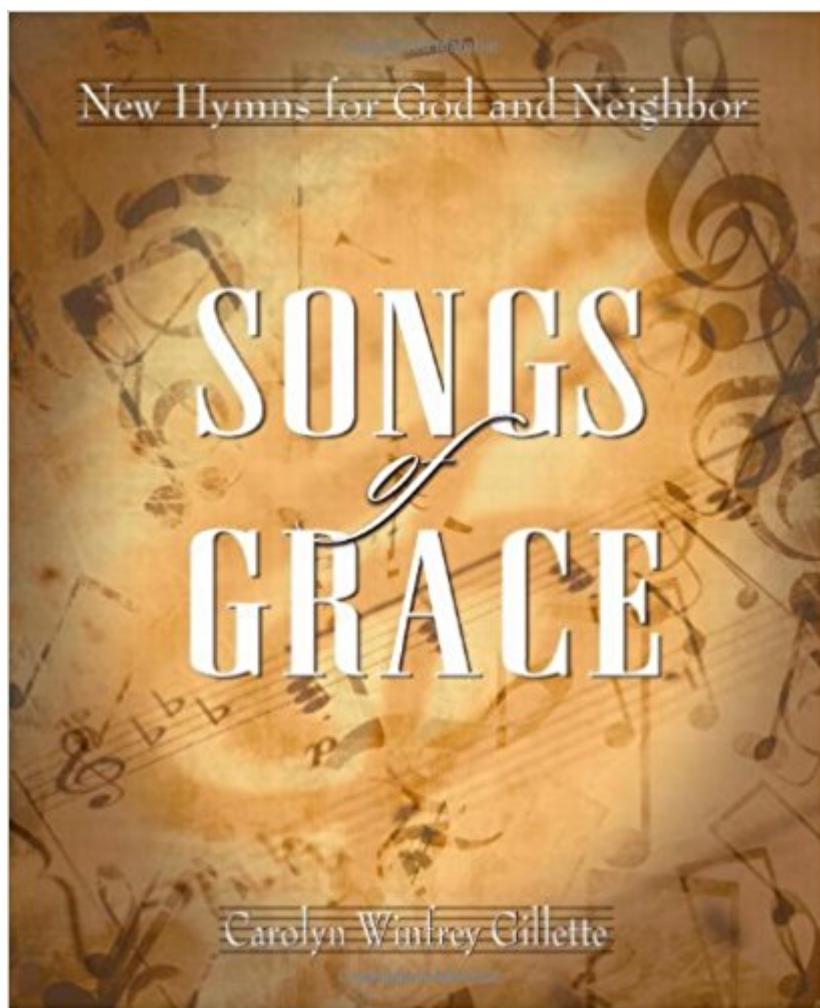


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# **Songs Of Grace: New Hymns For God And Neighbor**



## **Synopsis**

Sing a new song! The book, \*Songs of Grace\*\*, includes over 70 new hymns written to be sung to the tunes of many well loved and well known hymns. The new words offer expressions of hope, celebration and spiritual enrichment. Accompanying each new hymn is a devotion or meditation to be used in reflection of the melodic prayers. These hymns are written to celebrate the ministry of a wide range of church activities, from older adult ministries and stewardship to social justice and many other topics in between.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is currently co-pastor at Limestone Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware. She was a pastor and hospice chaplain in both New Jersey and Delaware. She received a BA in Religion from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania and her MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey. Carolyn and her husband, Bruce, have three children. Her other works include \*Gifts of Love\*\* (Geneva Press).

Ms. Gillette is gifted and writes wonderful lyrics. But despite the title, SONGS of grace," and the cover being decorated with five-line music staves, and the description speaking of the contents as HYMNS, THERE IS NO MUSIC IN THIS BOOK. IT IS A BOOK OF POEMS, NOT SONGS. I sent it back. Five stars for the lyrics of Ms. Gillette, 1 star for the description.

I saw the book first on the United Methodist website. It fascinated me so much that I ordered the

book immediately through and used one of the first hymns in the book about a month ago in our church and explained to the congregation about it first. They responded cheerfully. The Alexandria 1st United Methodist Church, Alexandria, Indiana. I told them if they accepted it I would introduce a hymn about every month or six weeks. Today I will use hymn #20. Text: Copyright @2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. "Christ Taught Us of a Farmer" to the hymn tune: AURELIA 76.76 D ("The Church's One Foundation"), Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864. Thank you . Thank you Carolyn Winfrey Gillette for your Godly insight . . ."Singing the Story"George & Norma Smith

A wonderful collection of new, fresh and timely hymns, along with insightful descriptions/explanations. There is a large variety of topics and subjects covered in these hymn texts, and the thorough indexes make searching for something particular even easier. All hymns can be sung to the suggested hymn-tunes (the majority of them are probably known to most any congregation). A great resource! I'm glad to have it in my library.

The week I got this our church music leadership has already incorporated one hymn into worship plans for the next month and is seeing lots of opportunities through the year. There are hymns that fill long time gaps in finding the right hymn for the text/ situation. Wonderful resource for 'New Hymns"

From the moment I received "Songs of Grace," I was glad I'd purchased it. I found immediately two hymns that would help to convey the message I was planning to bring in a sermon, and the words resonated with profound truth. Rev. Gillette has chosen her tunes well, and they are familiar to congregations. This makes it possible for those in the pews to have confidence when they sing one of her hymns for the first time, and enables them to focus on the words. I highly recommend this collection to anyone seeking to infuse their worship services with fresh new meaning.

Recently our congregation sang "If Only I Had Known" from this wonderful compilation of new hymns by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. A visitor approached me following the service and remarked that any congregation which would sing such a moving and poignant hymn is a church to which she would love to belong. As I read the pericopes for each Sunday I eagerly turn to "Songs of Grace" and the companion book "Gifts of Love" to see with what Carolyn has blessed us. Every congregation should have these wonderful books in their music library to enhance the worship

experience for everyone who enters their sanctuary!

In my church there is a tendency to not use any of the old hymns, instead we have utilized worship bands and choruses. The hymns seem too "old fashioned" and do not appeal to young people, so I am told. This book gives new words which are relevant to today's events, and lifestyle. Since it uses well known hymn tunes these "new hymns" are easy to learn and sing. Many in my congregation really like these new hymns.

Whether or not your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary, there'll be songs of value here. But it's in connection with finding songs that fit with the scripture for the day that I first came across Gillette's work. In fact, most of it is freely accessible via Jenee Woodard's massive link-fest, The Text This Week ([...]). However, you should buy a copy of this book or its companion to legitimately use her hymns in worship. A very fair price, because it's beautifully and multiply indexed. You supply the actual hymn tunes, but suggestions are given.

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