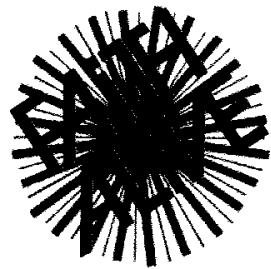


10-12-2008

Review of *To Build Christ's Kingdom, F. D. Maurice
and His Writings*, edited by Jeremy Morris

Robert Boak Slocum
Marquette University



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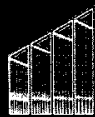
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to one of the most significant of Anglican theologians. Although continuity is always a challenge in edited collections of this kind, Morris has organized a great variety of texts in a way that will interest many readers to learn more about Maurice. The chapter on Maurice's early life provides intriguing insights into his feelings and perspectives as revealed in letters to family members. Other writings provide a clear expression of Maurice's vibrant faith in Christ. For example, in one letter Maurice laments that "we have been dosing our people with religion when what they want is not this but the Living God" (46) and in another letter he yearns for the benefits that would follow "if once the teachers in our theological schools would have courage to proclaim theology to be the knowledge of God and not the teaching of a religion ..." (49).

Morris's reader provides an interesting collection of texts that will help the reader to appreciate the main issues of Maurice's theology and the vibrant commitment of his faith.

(The Rev.) Rob Slocum
Danville, Ky.

Times and Seasons Creating Transformative Worship throughout the Year

By Richard Giles. Church Publishing. Pp. 192. \$30. ISBN 0898696135.

At the heart of Thomas Cranmer's liturgical reformation was what became, in principle, the supposition underlying all Anglican liturgy — that the church's worship is not something the priest does for the people, but something the priest and people offer for the sake of the world and its transformation.

English priest Richard Giles has worked long and hard to recover this principle, and to put it into effective practice. In his *Re-Pitching the Tent: Re-Ordering the Church Building for Worship and Mission* (Liturgical Press 1996 and 2006), he gave us a guide to

re-ordering our church in *Creating Uncommon Worship: Forming the Liturgy of the* (Liturgical Press 2004), he liturgical rites and rubrics in such a space.

Rounding out what essentially constitutes a trilogy of resources now gives us *Times and Seasons: Creating Transformative Worship throughout the Church*, a book that can be said to meet the traditional notion as "the work of the people and participants, and not merely in the liturgy. All the people gather at the baptismal pool, the rites of initiation, near the altar, the proclamation of the word, the table for the eucharistic banquet, the churchyard for the blessing fire, beside the Christmas blessing.

Consequently, instead of watching clergy and choirs do the people are to process in their place to another as actors that encompasses the entire building and sometimes even the neighborhood in which it sits. One more provocative suggestion, for example, is that because Jesus during Holy Week was from the unknown, perhaps the

day processions move "from the center of the parish to the unknown function of the parish."

Giles' writing is entertaining, graphical, and with much humor the reader a lot of laughs. He is

an author with strong opinions, and no holds in this volume. Few authors with every position he assumes one who cares about the church's theology and the way its worship can or should be a passion-filled challenge.

(The Rt. Rev.) Charles E. Boyce
Philadelph



BOOKS

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relationship to modern environmental concerns. On that basis, I would recommend it.

(The Rev.) John F. Crist
Streator, Ill.

To Build Christ's Kingdom

F. D. Maurice and His Writings

Edited by **Jeremy Morris**. Canterbury Press.
2p. 148. \$26.99. ISBN 1853117773.



Frederick Denison Maurice (1805-1872) has been described as the father of modern English theology. He was also one of the founders of Christian Socialism, and he urged the application of Christian principles to social and

political issues. He is commemorated in the Episcopal calendar of the church year on April 1.

Maurice's most significant book was *The Kingdom of Christ; or Hints to a Quaker concerning the Principle, Constitution and Ordinances of the Catholic Church* (1838), which described the church as a redeemed and redeeming community, and the body of Christ. Maurice identified six signs of a church or spiritual society: Baptism, the Apostles' and Nicene creeds, set forms of worship, Holy Eucharist, ordained ministry (especially the episcopate), and the Bible. These signs provided the foundation for the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral.

This reader includes selections from a variety of letters, essays, sermons, pamphlets and other texts by Maurice. The texts are arranged in topical chapters such as "Early Life and Views," "The Incarnation," and "Social Theology." Morris provides an introductory essay of about 19 pages, introductory paragraphs for each chapter, a select bibliography for Maurice, and indexes of subjects and names.

Morris provides a helpful gateway

(Continued on next page)

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"St. Paul's Chapel," signature poem from the volume, is on exhibit in the Chapel at Ground Zero.

Author was one of two poets on the drafting committee for the retranslation of the *Psalter*, now contained in *The Book of Common Prayer*.