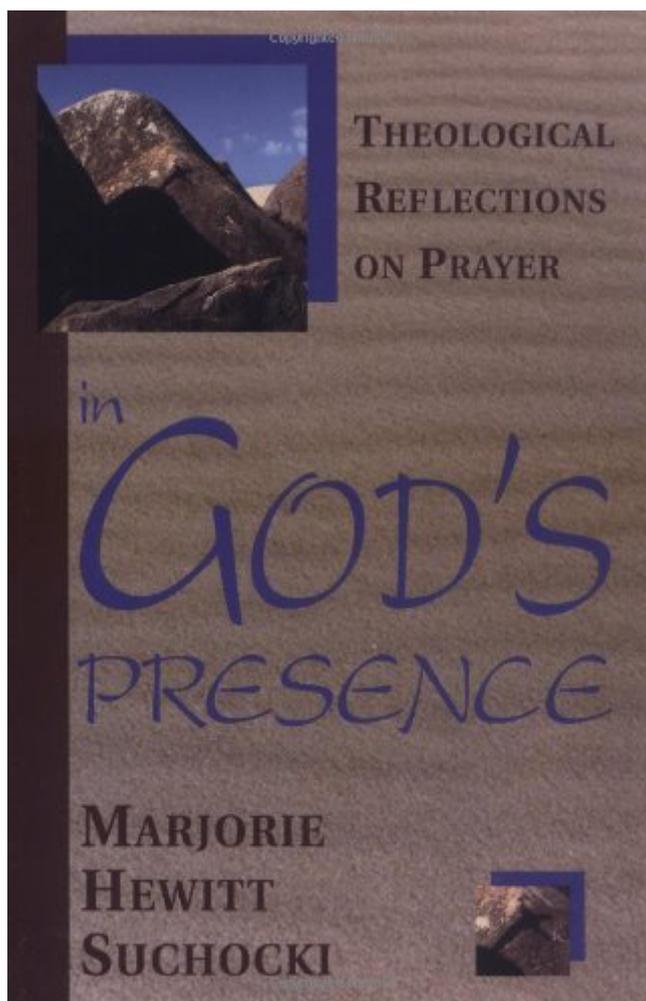


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In God's Presence: Theological Reflections On Prayer



Synopsis

Suchocki explores the dynamics of prayer. "If," she says, "we regard prayer as a partnership with, not a manipulation of, God, we can find whole new dimensions in our prayer life."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ms. Suchocki has delivered a potent message about prayer that illuminated quite a few dark corners for me. As a 61-year-old cradle Episcopalian, I had become more and more depressed about my feelings of inadequacy in prayer. Most especially, I was beginning to believe that "prayer doesn't work," and that the best we could ever do is to snuggle up close to our Creator and experience the love that abounds from that source. Suchocki offers that the Creator voluntarily constrained the omnipotence to which this Creator is entitled. By doing so, the Creator gave us free will; if God could (or would) just step in whenever we've decided to mess things up, our free will would not be free, at all, and the consequences of our actions would be subject to an irrational, undependable Mr. Fix-it. Consider all the prayers offered during Holocaust. Mr. Fix-it would have leapt right in. The Creator, with us as limited partners, co-creators, let us exercise our free will. Until the violence was over, God must surely have shed more tears than all the rest of us, combined; and hopefully, we

learned from all the errors we made during that awful period, so that as we progress in co-Creation, we will be more the kind of partners that God desires. I was struck by the idea that God always wills the best that can be for anyone, and that our prayers are part of a tapestry woven in the Creation that tilt Creation toward the goodness that we and God desire. Suchocki's description of the connected-ness provided by the millions of Christians praying the Lord's Prayer, down through the millenia, was an epiphany for me. The first chapter was very clearly written by an academic! I recommend that it be read through quickly and then deeply.

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