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## Christianity for the Rest of Us

By Diana Butler Bass

HarperCollins Publishers Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Christianity for the Rest of Us, Diana Butler Bass, For decades the accepted wisdom has been that America's mainline Protestant churches are in decline, eclipsed by evangelical mega-churches. Church and religion expert Diana Butler Bass wondered if this was true, and this book is the result of her extensive, three-year study of centrist and progressive churches across the country. Her surprising findings reveal just the opposite--that many of the churches are flourishing, and they are doing so without resorting to mimicking the mega-church, evangelical style. "Christianity for the Rest of Us" describes this phenomenon and offers a how-to approach for Protestants eager to remain faithful to their tradition while becoming a vital spiritual community. As Butler Bass delved into the rich spiritual life of various Episcopal, United Methodist, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, and Lutheran churches, certain consistent practices--such as hospitality, contemplation, diversity, justice, discernment, and worship--emerged as core expressions of congregations seeking to rediscover authentic Christian faith and witness today. This hopeful book, which includes a study guide for groups and individuals, reveals the practical steps that leaders and laypeople alike are taking to proclaim an alternative...



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### Reviews

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Diana Butler Bass's Christianity for the Rest of Us A Conversation with the Author. By Letha Dawson Scanzoni, Editor, Christian Feminism Today. Who are the rest of us? That was my first question to Diana Butler Bass about the title of her latest book, Christianity for the Rest of Us (HarperSanFrancisco, 2006). "That's a good question," she said, laughing, as we talked by phone in May, 2007. She explained that the title came from a comment made during her research on spiritual vitality in mainline churches. Diana Butler Bass is the author of eight books on American religion, including Christianity After Religion, Christianity for the Rest of Us, and A People's History of Christianity. She holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Duke University, has taught at the college and graduate level, and is currently an independent scholar. She was a columnist for the New York Times Syndicate, and blogs for the Huffington Post and the Washington Post on issues of religion, spirituality, and culture. Bass is a popular speaker at conferences, colleges and universities, and churches across North America. Yes, there is Christianity for the rest of us, and it is not perverted by narrow minded people who claim diversity is wrong and that pluralism will be a curse to the nation. Christians will prove to the fundamentalists that they cannot forever fool the people on one-issue matters that do not have anything to do with good government. "Emerging Churches" deals with a reaction against the sometimes dead religion that results from fundamental evangelicalism and "Christianity for the Rest of Us" looks at how churches are emerging from the liberal secularism found in some mainline religion. However, both of these "emerging churches" are heading in the same direction.

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