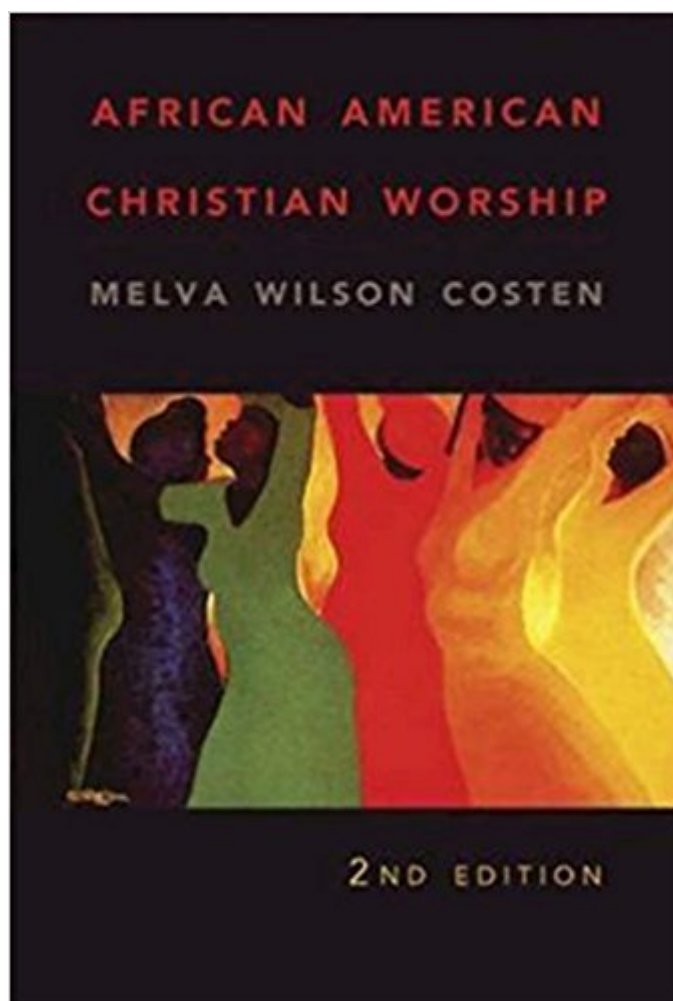


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# African American Christian Worship: 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

In this update to her 1993 classic, *African American Christian Worship*, Melva Wilson Costen, again delights her reader with a lively history and theology of the African American worship experience. Drawing upon careful scholarship and engaging stories, Dr. Costen details the global impact on African American worship by media, technology, and new musical styles. She expands her discussion of ritual practices in African communities and clarifies some of the ritual use of music in worship. In keeping with recent congregational practices, Dr. Costen will also provide general orders of worship suitable for a variety of denominational settings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Melva W. Costen, a native of South Carolina, retired as Helmar Emil Nielsen Professor of Worship and Music, choral director, and chair of the church music degree program at Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. She subsequently became the Visiting Professor of Liturgical Studies at the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut. She remains active in the Civil Rights Movement and as a teacher and consultant in area of church music, liturgy, and curriculum development.

Melva Wilson Costen's *"African American Christian Worship*, though now nearly a decade old, remains an undated core text for understanding the African American Christian religious experience. From a Caucasian perspective, some may mistake "worship" in the title as referring to one part of a

Sunday morning service. As Costen, and African American Church history demonstrate, nothing could be further from the truth. "Worship" is a 24/7 experience of God and the gathered community of God's people meet to celebrate what God has done and to empower one another with what He will continue to do. Costen's strength is her ability to tap into the history of African American Christianity. In fact, in many ways this book is just that--a history of African American corporate worship. Moving from the bitter waters of enslavement, to the Invisible Institution, to the Praise House, Costen shows both the actions and the theology behind those actions. She then beautifully ties together these historical foundations with the modern Christian worship experience of contemporary African American churches. For anyone wanting a well-researched history of the gathered African American Church, this is a great source. Reviewer: Bob Kellemen, Ph.D., is the author of *Beyond the Suffering: Embracing the Legacy of African American Soul Care and Spiritual Direction* .

Melva Costen has written a masterpiece in providing a very in depth look into the historical background of African American worship spanning from slavery to our modern times. If you desire to travel history and lift the veil from African American worship, this is the place to begin that journey!

I thought this book was a great starter book for those who have little knowledge of AA worship. My main problem with the text it is a little too academic for the masses - a little too much jargon. But I could relate to much of what stated from my personal and family experiences. A book that gives you more details of how Africans evolved into Afro Baptist, I would highly recommend Mechal Sobel's *Been in the Storm Too Long*." This book is excellent and can compliment this book. She deserves reading. She speaks truth.

Great for my class study!

al is well. thank you for your service.

This book is very informative and I have enjoyed reading it. Would recommend it to anyone. Worship is a part of our society and this book tells of how African American worship.

This is a most informative book on the history of African American worship. It is inclusive of other cultures as well. I recommend others to add this to their libraries. The author cites many references

which makes this scholarly reading.

Yes and I would recommend it to others.

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