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Volume 65 | Issue 1

Article 9

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4-7-2022

## Reimer's "Approaching the divine: Signs and symbols of the Christian faith" (book review)

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### Recommended Citation

Roberts, Paul A. (2022) "Reimer's "Approaching the divine: Signs and symbols of the Christian faith" (book review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 65: Iss. 1, Article 9.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl/vol65/iss1/9>

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# Book Review

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Reimer, M. L. (2017). *Approaching the divine: Signs and symbols of the Christian faith*. Winnipeg, MB: CMU Press. 96 pp. ISBN 9781987986013

For those believers raised in a liturgical church, the items presented in this book would not be new. Those believers (including myself) who have only read about certain ceremonies are in for a real treat by reading this book. This is an introductory book regarding the signs and symbols with Scripture.

The author, a Canadian Mennonite, begins her book discussing the church year with its various holidays. Special attention is given to Advent and Christmas, and Lent and Easter. Much historical information is shared as to the significance of these events for the church. The author does clarify that by “church” she means the people who belong to the Savior.

When discussing the church year, Reimer includes the various feast days and seasons of the church as mentioned in the lectionary. Complementing these events are specific colors that are displayed in and around the church. As well, when thinking about Christmas and Easter, certain songs and foods are important. For Lent, the meaning is encompassed in what is given up.

The fifth chapter of the book is a presentation of the significance of certain numbers and shapes mentioned in the Bible. This chapter seems out of place with what the author has presented previously and the chapters afterwards.

One lesson everyone can learn from reading this book is what traditions do I currently practice that draw me to worship God? This book may be an encouragement to pay closer attention to the church calendar and talk with people who attend churches who practice these traditions. I recommend this book.

## **Reviewer**

Paul A. Roberts