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Bratt's "By the Vision of Another World: Worship in American History" (Book Review)

Joshua M. Avery
God's Bible School and College

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By the Vision of Another World: Worship in American History,

edited by James D. Bratt. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2012.

213 pp. \$25.00. ISBN 978-0802867100

*Reviewed by Joshua M. Avery, Director of Library Services,
God's Bible School and College, Cincinnati, OH*

Since the 1960s scholars of American culture have increasingly understood the importance of religion in shaping the American experience. Fewer scholars, however, have attempted to bridge the gap between understanding the history and practice of Christian worship and seeking to enrich contemporary experience. It is from this intellectual milieu that James D. Bratt, a professor of history at Calvin College, offers *By the vision of another world; Worship in American history* a series of essays seeking to engage historians and scholars as well as students of liturgy and those striving to understand and improve the practices of church life.

There is much to enjoy in this fine collection with essays spanning American Christianity from the sixteenth to the twentieth century and dealing with topics and themes as diverse as Puritanism in Anglo-America, Methodist experiences of worship and space, Tejanos in the Texas Republic, black southern faith in Jim Crow Georgia and the mid-century resurgence of Catholic life and practice. While more attention to issues surrounding the rise in feminism, fundamentalism and evangelicalism would have been welcome additions, the concluding commentaries by George M. Marsden, Dorothy C. Bass and Joyce Ann Zimmerman provide additional merit to an already robust offering.

By the vision of another world is a strong compilation that should prove useful for both students and practitioners of American church life and is recommended for any college or university collection.

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Dr. Craig Kubic
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