



# Introduction to the History of Christianity in the United States

By Nancy Koester

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The history of Christianity in the United States is a fascinating and lively story. In this revised and expanded account, Nancy Koester introduces students to the major events and movements that influenced the tradition.

This comprehensive and highly accessible overview of Christian history in the United States, from colonial times to the present, is informed by both classical and recent scholarship and is written for the nonspecialist. Four key insights frame the book: Christianity in America is chiefly a story of popular movements, is influenced by conflict and engagement with modern ideas, directly affects public life, and expresses its identity and seeks its mission in a pluralistic culture.

Unlike many histories, Koester offers ample coverage of Protestant, Evangelical, and Roman Catholic developments, and the ecumenical focus is further strengthened in this newest edition.

Extensive primary sources, images, questions, and other features make this one of the most engaging and lively introductions on the market.

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#### Review

"Engaging, informative, and skillfully written, Koester's work provides a panorama of the history of American Christianity, adding just the right amount of nuance and detail to reveal the depth and color of the landscape. Teachers as well as students and other interested readers will be grateful for this substantive, clear, and useful account." --Russell Kleckley, Augsburg College

"Many general readers and beginning students want a concise, basic overview instead of a massive, detailed volume about the historical development of Christianity in the United States. That is just what this book provides—a brief survey, in understandable language, based upon respected academic sources. The breadth of content covered in so few pages is remarkable. Koester is balanced and judicious in her narrative, and she is aware of the themes and issues of current scholarship. The excerpts from primary documents and the additional illustrations in this revised edition are significant enhancements that help bring the story to life." --Bruce David Forbes, Morningside College

#### About the Author

Nancy Koester holds a doctorate in church history from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has taught at Luther Seminary and at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. She is the author of *Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Spiritual Life* (2014).

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