Worship & Rejoice Hymnal: Blue
As of December 2012, this 2001 offering by Chicago-area Christian music company Hope Publishing is their most recent hardbound hymnal, following in the footsteps of such highly successful works as the SERVICE HYMNAL (1935) and THE WORSHIPING CHURCH (1991). It is likely to be suitable for a wide variety of congregations. The 749 selections include works as diverse as "Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow," "Woman in the Night," "Pass It On," and "Lord, You Give the Great Commission," along with more traditional hymnody, including some hymns excised from recent Mainline denominational hymnals. However, "Onward, Christian Soldiers" came in for a light bowdlerization: in verse two, 'Brothers, we are treading' has been morphed into 'Christians, we are treading'; also, now it's "Rise Up, O Saints of God." Fabrication is very good and although hymns are not annotated with relevant bible verses (the case with many recent private-market hymnals), there's a very thorough Scriptural Index in the back. You'll go a long way to find a more comprehensive and useful pew hymnal, especially at this price. Availability: the publisher currently offers red, green and blue pew hymnals, all at the same price ($12.95, not including shipping).

UPDATE: I re-checked the publisher (hopepublishing.com) in October of 2013, and the publisher still offers red, blue and green-covered hymnals @$12.95 + S&H.

After reviewing this hymnal from a pastor friend of mine who is musical, I decided I had to have a
copy for myself. It has lots of the older, well-known hymns, but also contains many newer songs and some I’d never heard of, but absolutely love. I’m glad to have found this hymnal to add to my collection.

Excellent Hymnal. We have been searching for several years for a replacement for our hymnal which was first printed 70 years ago. This one has many familiar hymns and well as new ones.

This is a compendium of a lot of familiar hymns, plus some new and interesting writing. Musicians of virtually any denomination will find something of interest here. The overall trend is more to Low Church than High Church, but it’s a volume well worth having.

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