

"Susan Smith's creative thinking and academic rigor are balanced by her practical pastoral applications to real life challenges of change and transition. *Caring Liturgies* deals with life's ambiguities and paradoxes well, offering astute pastoral wisdom and clear theological insight in a practical manner. Presenting the idea of ritual as a powerful symbolic expression of liberation and healing, Smith patiently leads the reader through the necessary stages of curiosity and questioning of this methodology to acceptance of this traditional wisdom. I wholeheartedly recommend this book to anyone who yearns for a creative, liberating expression of one's faith in times of turmoil."

—**Jim Clarke**

**St John's Seminary, Camarillo, California**

"Susan Smith skillfully weaves together her pastoral experiences and scholarly knowledge to provide students, pastors, and lay leaders an excellent resource for their work as care givers and creators and leaders of caring liturgies. With *Caring Liturgies*, Susan Smith has provided communities and their leaders with useful strategies for creating rites that cultivate spiritual growth in times of transition. Her book brings to light through their rituals, caring communities birth hope in the midst of despair and life in the midst of death."

—**Jill Crainshaw**

**Wake Forest University**