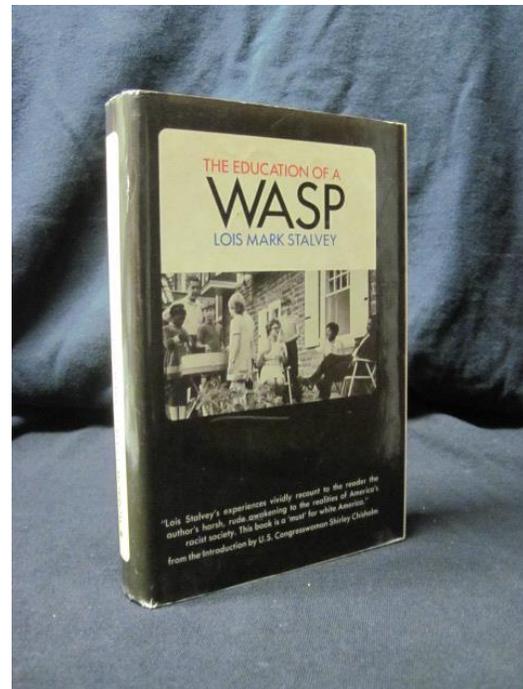


**Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*, FSG Classics (New York, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012).**

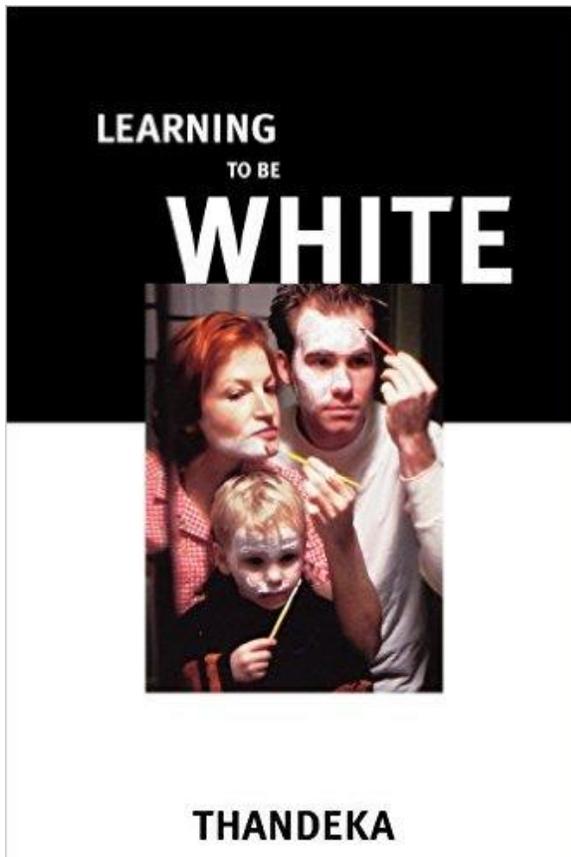
Walking with a Hmong refugee family, as they struggle to live in the new culture of California without losing their spirituality and all that has meaning for them, the author draws the reader into the devastating results of two cultures colliding, unable to find any meaningful way to connect. This story demonstrates the crucial need to move beyond cross-cultural, beyond multi-cultural, into the healing embrace of truly inter-cultural understanding, relationships, and personal transformation deep within ourselves. Originally copyrighted in 1997, this fifteenth anniversary edition includes a new afterword by the author.



**Lois Mark Stalvey, *The Education of a WASP*, Wisconsin Series in American Autobiography (Madison, WI: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1970).**

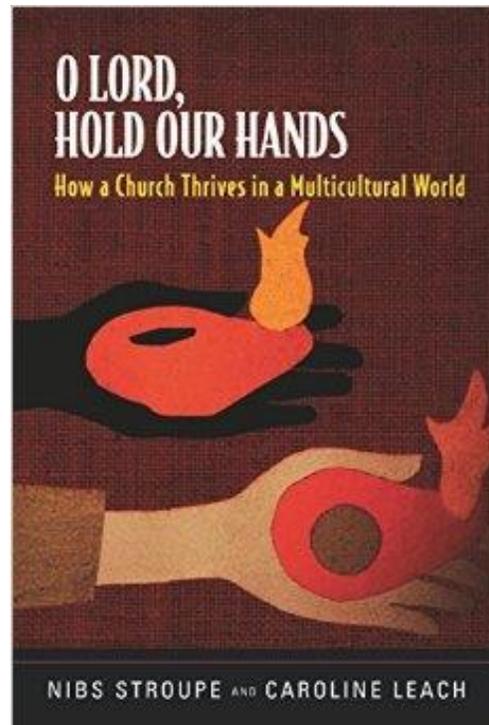
This true story about racism, embedded both within oneself and in the surrounding society, details one white woman's journey from oblivion, to uncomfortable awareness, to intentional action, to powerful advocacy. Set in the 1960's, this book remains relevant, powerful, and poignant as long as racial hatred continues in this country, as long as the truth of racial hatred goes unrecognized or is minimized, and as long as we fail to speak and hear the truth, allowing that truth to transform our souls, our churches, and our society.

“An extraordinarily honest and revealing book that poses the issue: loyalty to one's ethnic group or loyalty to conscience.” —Publishers Weekly



**Thandeka, *Learning to be White: Money, Race, and God in America* (New York, NY: The Continuum Publishing Co., 1999).**

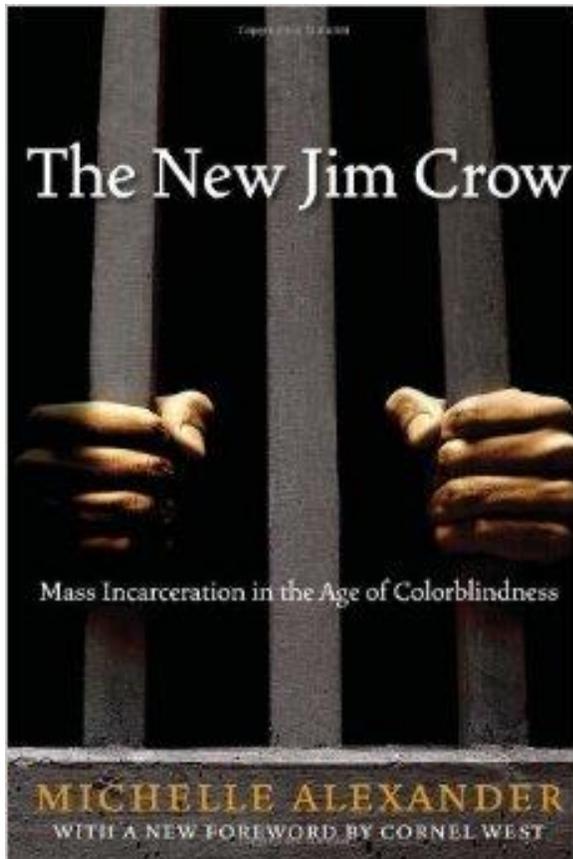
Going beyond the devastating impact of racism on "persons of color," Thandeka explores the formation of "white" identity, exposing the destructive power of racism in the lives of white people. Historical, theological, and economic contexts provide the ground for the roots of racism in the Euro-American child, resulting in internalized shame, denial of real feelings, and loss of an integrated sense of being a whole person. As all human beings come to understand themselves as "people of color," the healing of broken humanity takes on new possibilities.



**Nibs Stroupe and Caroline Leach, *O Lord, Hold Our Hands: How a Church Thrives in a Multicultural World* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2002).**

This is the story of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church and its journey from being all white to being multicultural. The church is a nationally recognized leader in this area, and it has been involved in this journey for 50 years. Here you will find great inspiration and deep and continuing struggles, as well as guides on navigating through the powerful vortex of the system of race.

“The Story of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church cannot be repeated elsewhere, but it can inform and energize others to face the same question about the same dilemma with the same evangelical innocence and courage: ‘God is breaking down these dividing walls!’”  
—*Walter Brueggemann*

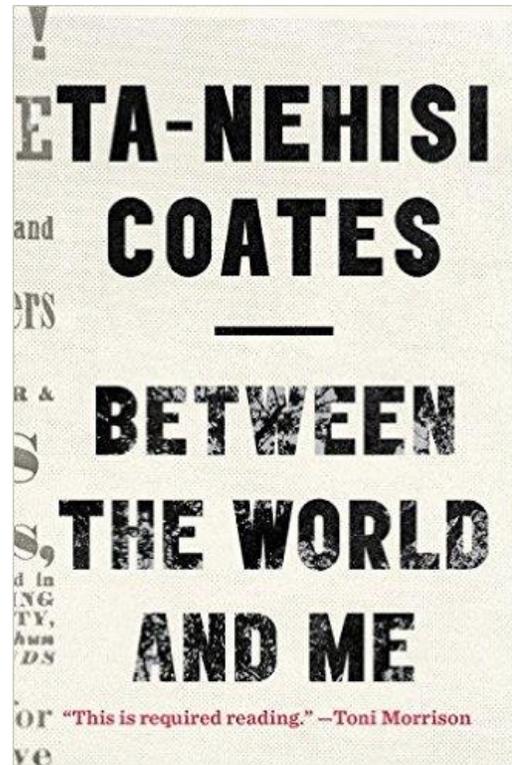


**Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in an Age of Colorblindness* (New York, NY: The New Press, 2012).**

This is a foundational book for understanding the powerful hold that race continues to have in our culture. It will make clear that the killings in Ferguson, Baltimore, New York, Charleston, and many other places are not a sad aberration but rather part and parcel of the American story. It is a call to action to deal with one of the most intractable problems of our time.

“A call to action for everyone concerned with racial justice and an important tool for anyone concerned with understanding and dismantling this oppressive system.”

—*Sojourners*

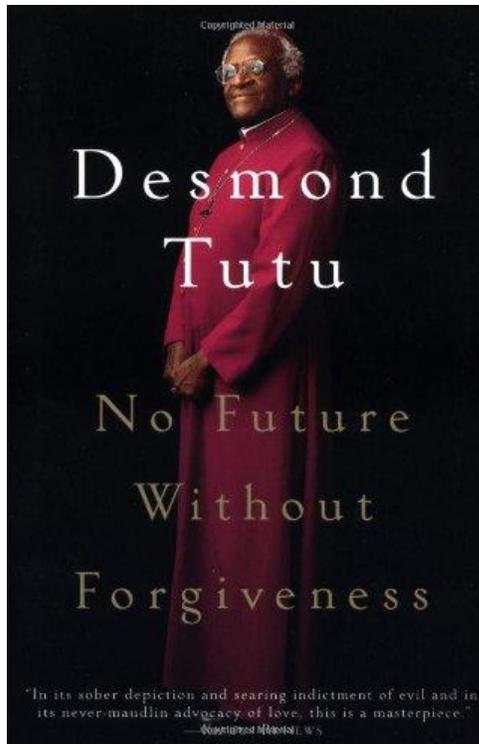


**Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me* (New York, NY: Spiegel & Grau, 2015).**

This just-released book is a stunning meditation on what it means to be black in America in light of the terrible swift sword of racism that has been revealed in the last 18 months. It takes the form of a letter from the author to his 14-year-old son, inspired by James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*. The author is a national correspondent at Atlantic Magazine.

“The language of *Between the World and Me*, like Coates’s journey, is visceral, eloquent, and beautifully redemptive. And its examination of the hazards and hopes of black male life is as profound as it is revelatory.”

—*Toni Morrison*

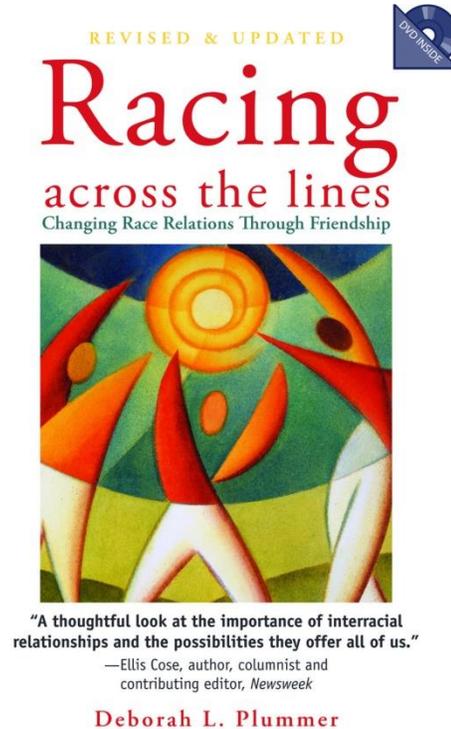


**Desmond Tutu, *No Future Without Forgiveness* (New York, NY: Image, 2000).**

Telling the story of South Africa's *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* (TRC), its Chairperson, Desmond Tutu, reflects on what he has learned from the painful process of healing a nation that is navigating between the Scylla of punishing the evil doers and the Charybdis of forgetting the past. TRC attempts at what Tutu calls a "third way" that leads to a new world of honesty and compassion.

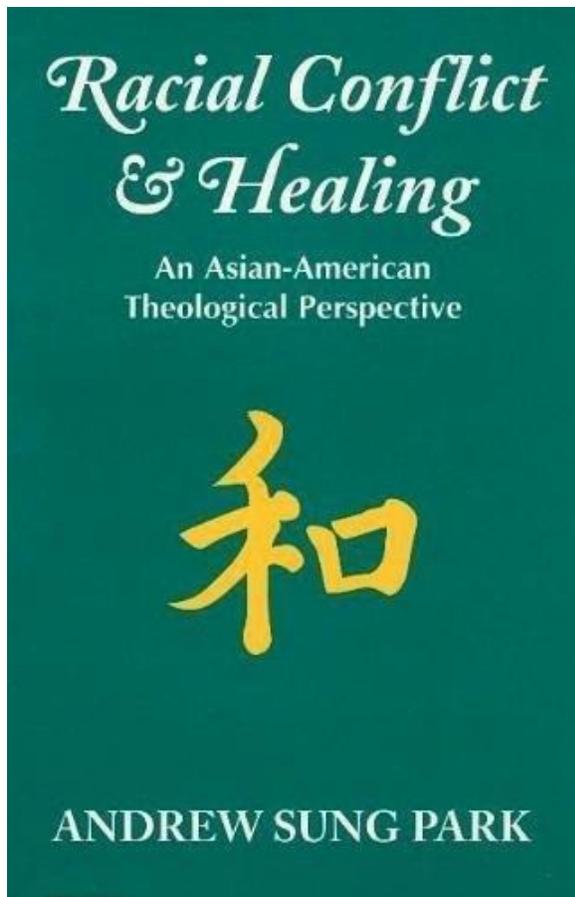
"The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa has put the spotlight on all of us... In its hearings Desmond Tutu has conveyed our common pain and sorrow, our hope and confidence in the future."

--Nelson Mandela



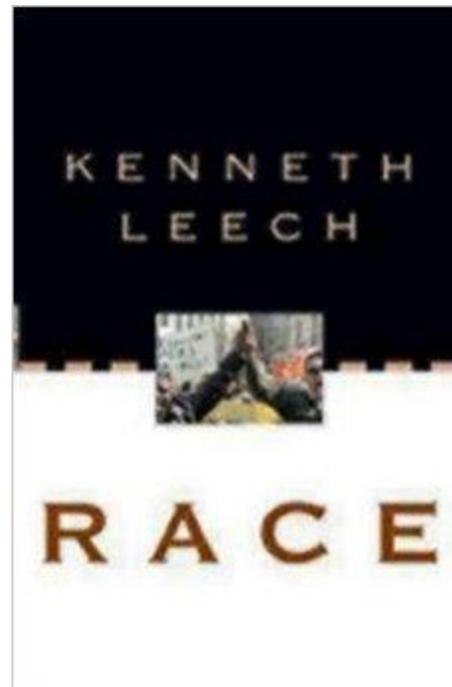
**Deborah L. Plummer, *Racing Across The Lines: Changing Race Relations Through Friendship, Revised Edition* (Cleveland, OH: the Pilgrim Press, 2009 [2004]).**

This not-too-long, very readable book has thought questions at the end of each chapter that make it appropriate for both small groups and individual reading. Using running as both theme and metaphor throughout the book, she makes a strong argument for improving race relations through cross-racial friendship. Speaking as an African-American woman, she acknowledges that it can be difficult for individuals from minority groups to cross racial boundaries, but suggests that their efforts can be particularly effective as she challenges us all to "race across the lines."



**Andrew Sung Park, *Racial Conflict & Healing: An Asian-American Theological Perspective* (Orbis).**

An intellectual and theological approach to the issue of racial conflict – including discrimination between minority communities – with a “theology of seeing” that aims to heal the ruptures of racism, this book reveals that racialized discrimination and oppression can be seen in every ethnic minority living in contemporary America and seeks “a theological model that will help transform a society of oppression, injustice, and violence into a community of equity, fairness, and mutual consideration.”

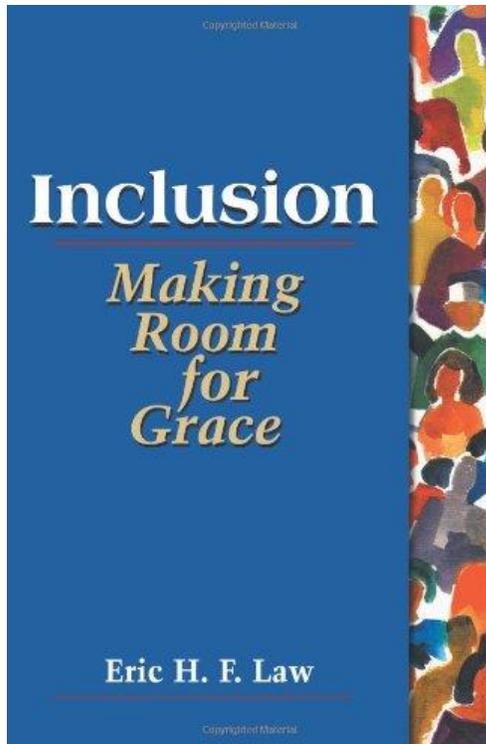


**Kenneth Leech, *Race* (New York, NY: Church Publishing, INC, 2005).**

Defining the idea of “race” as humanity’s most dangerous myth and the reality of racism as its most dangerous monster, this book deals historically, sociologically, and theologically with the problem of racism, especially in the context of the Great Britain. This book makes clear that the reality of racism, by definition, is institutional, that personal change is not enough to combat racism, and that the Church is by its nature a non-racist community.

“And finally, and perhaps most important, Leech draws on Christian convictions to challenge Christians, not only how to think differently about race but hopefully how to practice our faith in a manner that we may be an alternative for the world.”

—Stanley Hauerwas

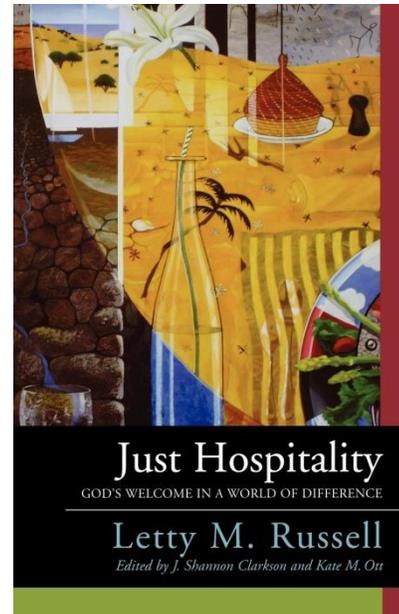


**Eric H. F. Law, *Inclusion: Making Room for Grace* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2000).**

Focusing on creating “grace margin” between safe zone and fear zone in our midst, this book promotes a paradigm change for our living together with differences, moving beyond segregation, mono-culture, homogeneity, hostility, closed circle, ethno-centrism toward integration, multi-culture, diversity, hospitality, open circle, ethno-relativism.

“There is much here that should be put into practice at once in congregations, and it is supported with a remarkable accessible biblical and theological framework-material that might be put to excellent use in adult education programs.”

—David Esterline

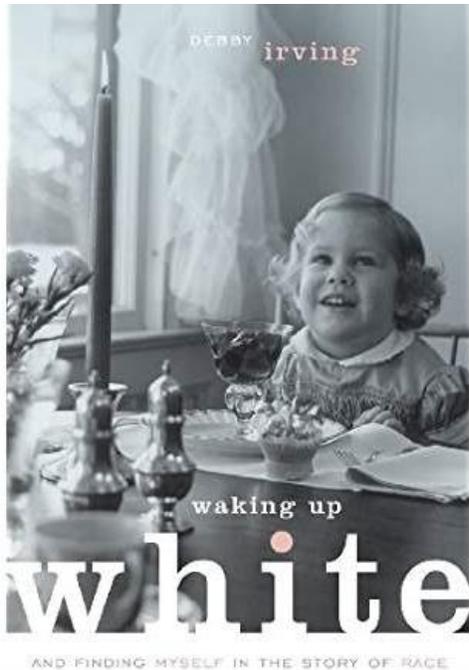


**Letty M. Russell, *Just Hospitality: God's Welcome in a World of Difference* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2009).**

Drawing on feminist and postcolonial studies, this book makes an analysis of the power dynamics based on differences and draws out a process of “just hospitality”-“the practice of God's welcome by reaching out across difference to participate in God's actions bringing justice and healing in our world of crisis and fear of the ones we call ‘other.’”

“*Just Hospitality* is vintage Letty, an amazing gift summarizing a life of learning and practice. Combining up-to-date scholarship and moving personal stories, this book helps us rethink what it means to be Christian today. From now on, we cannot think of the nature of the church without remembering *Just Hospitality*.”

—Kwok Pui-lan

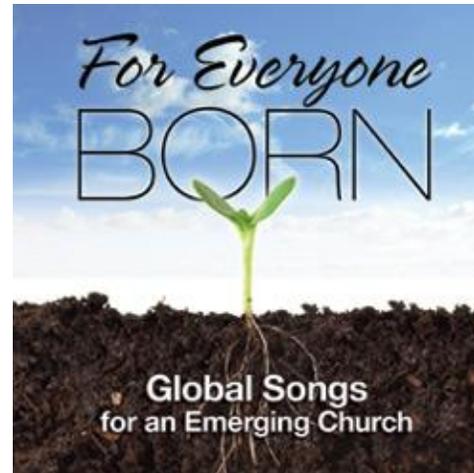


**Debbie Irving, *Waking Up White* (Cambridge, MA: Elephant Room Press, 2014)**

For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. In 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us.

*"Waking Up White* is engaging, challenging, and action-oriented! It's a must read for anyone exploring issues of racism, power, privilege, and leadership."

—Eddie Moore Jr.



**Jorge Lockward & Christopher Heckert, Ed., *For Everyone Born: Global Songs for an Emerging Church* (General Board of Global Ministries [United Methodist] , GBGMusik, 2008)**

This songbook features twenty-three songs from eighteen countries or people groups, meant to be useful for a variety of worship settings, instrumental ensembles, and skill levels.

The editors, Jorge Lockward and the Rev. Christopher Heckert, staff of the General Board of Global Ministries, chose the songs for their accessibility, immediacy, and capacity to cross-over between cultures and settings. Over half of the songs were recorded in the country of the song's origin. Each song contains notes on the context, the song, and the prayer. There are inspiring and creative tips for worship and performance, including advice on how to include children in the music.

"This book is spot-on for the kinds of conversations we need to be having."

—Walter Brueggemann, author of *Sabbath as Resistance*

What if I say the wrong thing? Is race really something that I need to talk about (I'm white)? Shouldn't I let people of color be the ones to bring it up? I don't want to offend anyone. I don't think I'm racist, but what if I say something that sounds racist? It's on the news all the time, but I don't know how to talk about what's going on. I'm worried someone will call me a racist. I don't see color. Why do we have to keep talking about this? I feel stupid when we talk about race. I realize there's a lot I don't know. But it's not my fault! I am not a racist. I work with people of color and I'm respectful and friendly to them like I treat anybody else. I have friends who are people of color and who don't want to talk about race, so why should we? I get angry thinking you're trying to make me more politically correct. Leave me alone already. What does this have to do with faith? The Bible doesn't say anything about race. Let's leave it alone. But what's *really* happening on the news? Some people are crazy and racist. But that's not me. But how do I stop something like that happening in my town? I don't know. It makes me anxious.

## Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism

CAROLYN B. HELSEL

**Caroline B. Helsel, *Anxious to Talk About it* (St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2018)**

If talking about racism makes you anxious, afraid, or even angry, you're not alone. In *Anxious to Talk about It*, pastor and professor Carolyn B. Helsel draws on her success with white congregations to offer insight and tools to embrace, explore and work through the anxious feelings. Each chapter ends with questions for reflection and discussion to further help you get the conversations started.

"I'm not in the KKK and I don't carry a Nazi flag. Why should I read a book about race? Carolyn Helsel's new book will answer that question and, in the process, you'll become not just a better white person, but a better, more mature, more caring Christian and human being.  
—*Brian D. McLaren*