

Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change By Jim Antal

Jim's new book carries us through our present climate crisis describing what is now happening and what historically has led to it. He emphasizes the importance of helping parishioners to face the reality of our present climate crisis and helping them to grieve the loss of what was. It is a natural human response to remain in denial because the reality is too painful to bear. However, until we face the reality and grieve the loss we as the people of God will not be able to work for change. It is not optimism that we need now, it is hope. Optimism is about attitude. Unlike hope which is an active virtue, Optimism is passive. In Jim's words "To become people of hope we must be willing to stare reality in the face." He also eloquently says "However grim, reality cannot undermine or cancel the hope God offers us."

In the Epilogue, he takes us forward into the year 2100, to a climate conference which is convened by the World Council of Churches. A teenager named Evergreen Suzuki is speaking a message to the church. She is the great- great-granddaughter of Severn Cullis-Suzuki who addressed the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit. She speaks for only 6 minutes during which the audience listens intently in deep silence. She reviews the losses that have occurred over these many years naming people and events from our time and then proceeds to say that "the church finally woke up at the end of the second decade of the 21st century..... The importance of Creation Care inspired by their love for God led to courageous and sacrificial acts of resistance. "By the third decade of the twenty-first century, humanity began to speak with a single voice, recognizing that this was the only Earth, our only home".

Jim Antal tells the truth of our present climate crisis with deep theological and historical insights and most importantly with a Pastoral heart and a deep love for the church. In the words of Richard Rohr " Jim Antal reminds us that the climate crisis, while overwhelmingly frightening, recalls the church to its deepest vocation: incarnating the love that is God"