Rev Dr Grace Ji-Sun Kim will be the guest speaker at the Cato lecture at the UCA National Assembly in July 2024 in Sydney.

Her lecture will touch on the concepts in several of her books and make connections with the 17th Assembly theme, ‘Threads of Love, Weaving Christ’s Love Across Cultures and Boundaries’.

Her book *Invisible*, listed by Englewood Review of Books as one of 12 Important Theology Books of 2021, explores the marginalisation and oppression of Asian-American women. Borne out of her own experience of xenophobia and racism, Grace discusses the notion of “invisibility” as not only a cultural or social issue but also a spiritual one.
“We talk about in, you know, like Harry Potter, the invisible cloak. It's one thing to have this thing where you use it as your power and it’s your decision to be made invisible, but it's really another thing when societies themselves make a group invisible. Asian Americans here are made invisible by the white dominant society and I’m hoping that the book might be a lens for us to understand how other groups are made invisible.”
Grace listed those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, the LGBTIQA+ community, people who are disabled, and in today’s context, the Palestinian people, as examples of groups which are made invisible by society.
She speaks about a ‘theology of visibility’ as a way of lifting people up.
“In so many ways it's not just Asian Americans that are made invisible, but other groups. And we really need to stop that. Everyone is equal, everyone is created in the image of God and we have to value each other. No life is less valuable than another life.”

**For more information - key contacts**

**Rev Dr David Dong Won Kim**
**UCA Multicultural Ministries Coordinator**
David has 17 years of congregational ministry in the Synod of Queensland and ministry in South Korea and the USA. He is also a member of the Korean National Conference executive. He is passionate about supporting CALD leaders and migrant communities in their mission, growing networks of CALD leaders, and supporting the work with second-generation young people.
Contact David on 0400 213 205 or david.Kim@victas.uca.org.au

**Reverend Associate Professor Robyn Whitaker**
**Director of The Wesley Centre for Theology, Ethics and Public Policy.**
https://thewesleycentre.org/
Robyn is a biblical scholar and an ordained UCA minister. She has a commitment to speaking beyond the church in ways that contribute to public discourse in a nuanced, researched-based, and respectful manner. She says, “I am convinced by the need for compassionate, loving, and intelligent Christian contributions in the public square.”
Robyn is the Associate Professor of New Testament at the Pilgrim Theological College in the University of Divinity.

**Rev Deacon Sandy Boyce**
**Executive Officer, Victorian Council of Churches**
0499 726 213, sandy.boyce@vcc.org.au
W: vcc.org.au

Victorian
Council of Churches

# Visit of Rev Dr Grace Ji-Sun Kim July 2024

Grace was born in Korea, educated in Canada, and now teaches in the United States at Earlham Theological College, USA.

She is a prolific writer, and is the author or editor of 21 books including Invisible, Hope in Disarray, Keeping Hope Alive, and Intersectional Theology. Her most recent publications are ‘When God became white: Dismantling Whiteness for a More Just Christianity’ (published May 2024) and ‘Surviving God: A new vision of God through the eyes of sexual abuse survivors’ (2024), which she co-authored with Susan M. Shaw.

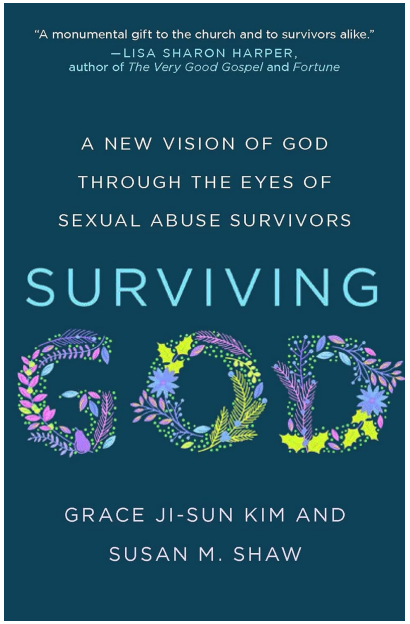
She is a series Co-Editor for Palgrave Macmillan,“Asian Christianity in the Diaspora,” and has served on the American Academy of Religion’s Board of Directors.

Grace writes for Baptist News Global, Sojourners, Faith and Leadership, and Wabash Center and has published in TIME, The Huffington Post, Christian Century, US Catholic Magazine, and The Nation.

Grace is the host of the Madang podcast, which is hosted by the Christian Century, and am an ordained Presbyterian Church (USA) minister.

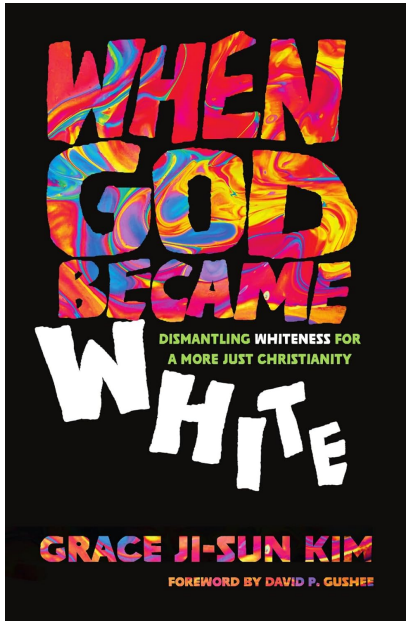
You can follow her on substack: Loving Life.

Sojourners named Grace as one of eight women shaping the church.




**Presentation**: Friday July 26th 10am
**Venue**: St Peters Eastern Hill, East Melbourne
**Host**: Victorian Council of Churches
**Free event** *(includes book signing)*

Who is God when we see God through the eyes of survivors? Many books have dealt with sexual abuse scandals in the church and the role of pastoral care for survivors. Others have provided liberatory readings of biblical texts to support survivors of sexual violence. *Surviving God* takes a new approach, centering the voices of sexual abuse survivors and rethinking key Christian beliefs. The authors demonstrate how traditional ways of thinking about God are highly problematic, contribute to the problems of sexual abuse, and are not reflective of the God of love and justice at the heart of the gospel. The authors centre the ways gender intersects with race, sexuality, class, and religion, leading to deep healing and a transformed church that no longer contributes to the devastation of sexual abuse.




**Presentation:** Sunday July 28th, 3.30pm
**Venue:** Wesley Uniting Church, Lonsdale St
**Hosts:** Wesley Centre: Theology, Ethics and Public Policy, and the Victorian Council of Churches
**Free event** *(includes book signing)*
https://thewesleycentre.org/upcoming-events
When Western Christians think about God, the default image that comes to mind is usually white and male. How did that happen? Christianity is rooted in the ancient Near East among people of darker skin. European Christians cast Jesus in their own image, with art that imagined a fair-skinned Saviour in the style of imperial rulers. Grace explores the historical origins and theological implications of how Jesus became white and God became a white male, which led Christianity to have a profoundly colonialist posture across the globe. She examines its harmful impact on the world, and shows what it looks like to recover the biblical reality of a nonwhite, nongendered God. Rediscovering God as Spirit leads us to a more just faith and a better church and world.