

FOREWORD**Marching with the Poor (2020)**

Amy Delaney

Dr. Jean Kim brings her life-long passion for all of God’s children to this study of scripture through the lens of the homeless poor and the implications for the church. I had anticipated a much thinner book – but the scriptures that speak to this topic are indeed many. She begins the biblical study with God’s ideal home, the Garden of Eden, and ends with God’s glorious home as found in Revelation. In her review of the biblical material between these two ideal homes, she underscores the reality that the homeless poor appear throughout scripture. Starting with Adam and Eve, and continuing through Abram & Sarai, the Exodus, the Exile, and the many other biblical accounts, Dr. Kim offers us a detailed commentary on the relevant texts. I especially appreciated her approach to Jesus, and the way his ministry both embodied and honored the homeless poor. In the final sections of the book Dr. Kim asks essential questions of the Christian community. What should our mission look like in light of these insights into scripture? As a pastor, I am looking forward to using her resource for personal and group study.

Rev. Amy Delaney

Pastor of the Edmonds Presbyterian Church,
Edmonds, WA**FOREWORD Marching with the Poor (2020)**

Hallack Greider

I recently read an online article by a pastor who was attempting to make the case that God’s greatest concern for people is that their soul goes to heaven by confessing Jesus Christ as their personal savior. As part of his case he dismissed the call to social justice by referring to Jesus’ line that “The poor you shall always have with you” as Jesus’ way of saying that we can’t do much about poverty and therefore shouldn’t try, and besides, Jesus only cares about saving souls anyway. That pastor needs to read Jean Kim’s book. There are a few golden threads that run through the entire Bible from beginning to end, and Jean Kim reveals quite clearly and convincingly that God’s care for the poor and homeless, and the call of God’s people to join in that care, is one of those threads. This book is the most thorough Biblical treatment I have read on this subject. If anyone is not convinced of this, I want to put this book in their hands. Yet what makes this book so relevant and personal is that in addition to deep Biblical exposition, Jean reveals the truth that poverty is not just the lack of material resources experienced by a group of people on the margins of society. Poverty and homelessness are also a relational experience, and an emotional experience, and a systemic reality that affects us all. Therefore, we all experience a kind of poverty and homelessness at various times in our lives. Being aware of this connects us as human beings who are all equal in God’s eyes, and connects us to the God who wants us to be well and whole and experience a life of abundance—not material abundance necessarily, but relational abundance, emotional abundance, spiritual abundance. The title of this book is “Marching with the poor and homeless” and Jean Kim has been a leader in that march with passion and great love. This book is a crowning achievement and a summary of the theology and spirituality of her life’s work.

Rev. Hallack Greider

Pastor, Maplewood Presbyterian Church,
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The Rev. Dr. Jean Kim's strong commitment to support and provide for homeless people has dominated her life for many years, leading in part to the completion of this interesting book. Here she has thoroughly analyzed the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures for what they teach us about homelessness and God's intent for the care of all people. The individual people and the nations of the Bible come to life as she delves into the many times and different ways homelessness is an issue for them. I think her work is unparalleled in its breadth and depth. Referring often to the words of well-known theologians and Bible scholars, she has made use of their insight along with her own theological training and life experience. As someone who has known what it is to be homeless, as a social worker, as a theologically educated minister of God, and as one who has initiated care for homeless people in several different cities, she has a wealth of knowledge of her own to share with us. She goes further than most in recognizing homelessness does not mean only being without a place to live, but also one can experience homelessness emotionally and spiritually, and perhaps in other aspects of our lives. I know no other author who has expanded our understanding in this manner. Jean's book opens up the Scriptures for a deeper comprehension of what it has for us to learn and practice in our lives as we follow God's law of love.

Rev. Mary E.N. Hanke
Retired Hospital Chaplain