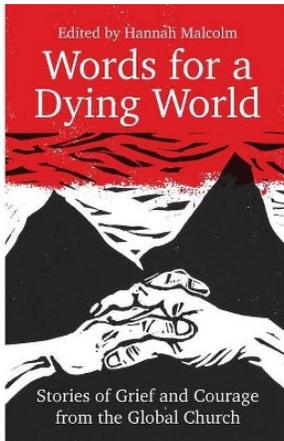


Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network



Book Review:

'Words for a Dying World: Stories of Grief and Courage from the Global Church'

edited by Hannah Malcolm, (London: SCM, 2020)

Reviewed by Dave Bookless 1 March 2021

'Words for a Dying World' is a must-read but not a comfortable one. It's voices are highly diverse yet disturbingly consistent, articulating the agony of places and peoples, and wrestling to integrate Christian grief and hope amidst ecological collapse.

This is a book to read in small doses and return to often. It's painful, messy, beautiful, incomplete, and deeply disturbing. Yet, particularly with Hannah Malcolm's introduction and conclusion, it is placed within a biblical narrative of creation, redemption and hope that can only be encountered through deep loss and grief. I recommend it without hesitation.

This book challenged and changed me. It took me to uncomfortable places in our wounded world, and into the pain of fellow Christians grappling with overwhelming suffering and grief. You will find diverse, sometimes conflicting voices, speaking from a huge variety of geographical places and theological stances. This is theology in formation rather than neat and tidy: often struggling to resolve Christian faith, indigenous and interfaith worldviews, the injustices of race, gender, colonialism and sexuality, and the overwhelming tragedy of places and planet in breakdown.

I encourage you to read this book, to persevere where it causes you pain or anger, to allow yourself to be overwhelmed, and to wrestle with the questions that emerge. I hope it will lead you, like me, to rethink the place of grief and lament in your prayer life and your theology, and to allow God's Spirit to speak through the groaning of our wounded world.

[Publisher's link](#)

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