



My Body, Their Baby A Progressive Christian Vision for Surrogacy

SERIES: ENCOUNTERING TRADITIONS

GRACE Y. KAO

"The world needs more scholars like Grace Kao. With thoughtful rigor and deeply human tenderness, she provides a faithful framework for understanding surrogacy. Her cogent, compassionate arguments illuminate a practice that is often consigned to the shadows, and her work shines with creativity, empathy, and care."

—Jeff Chu, author of *Does Jesus Really Love Me?*

Drawing on her own experience as a surrogate mother, Grace Y. Kao assesses the ethics of surrogacy from a feminist and progressive Christian perspective, concluding that certain kinds of surrogacy arrangements can be morally permissible—and should even be embraced.

While the use of assisted reproductive technology has brought joy to countless families, surrogacy remains the most controversial path to parenthood. *My Body, Their Baby* helps readers sort through objections to this way of bringing children into the world. Candidly reflecting on carrying a baby for her childless friends and informed by the reproductive justice framework developed by women of color activists, Kao highlights the importance of experience in feminist methodology and Christian ethics. She shows what surrogacy is like from the perspective of women becoming pregnant for others, parents

who have opted for surrogacy (including queer couples), and the surrogate-born children themselves.

Developing a constructive framework of ethical norms and principles to guide the formation of surrogacy relationships, Kao ultimately offers a vision for surrogacy that celebrates the reproductive generosity and solidarity displayed through the sharing of traditionally maternal roles.

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Grace Y. Kao is Professor of Ethics and founding co-director of the Center for Sexuality, Gender, and Religion at Claremont School of Theology. She co-edited *Encountering the Sacred: Feminist Reflections on Women's Lives* (with Rebecca Todd Peters, 2018).