

## Preface

More than another volume on crisis, this is a volume on practical theological reflections. It is the third volume in the International Academy of Practical Theology (IAPT) conference series. IAPT has continued to give attention to particular contexts in the study of theological thought and action since its founding in 1989. As with any edited volume, this endeavor takes the contributions of dozens of people seen and unseen who contribute their time, expertise, and passion. It is compiled from contributions to the 2021 biannual conference that was planned by four Belgian theological faculties to be hosted in Leuven, Belgium—at KU Leuven, one of the oldest theological faculties in the world, founded in 1432.

The conference theme, *Coping with crisis: hospitality, security, and the search for faithful connections*, had been chosen in 2019 as a response to the characterization of several social issues (human rights, privacy, climate change, migration) as crises. While most of us had planned to gather in Leuven, Belgium to make these discussions and reflect together in person, the conference was moved online. One outcome is that this allowed the participation of more than 200 scholars from Asia, Australia, Africa, North America and South America as well as Europe.

This volume, *Crisis, fear and hope. An introduction into practical theological reflections*, is a collection based on papers and keynotes as presented and dis-

cussed during the conference. Since pre-recorded online clips could be accessed independently of time zones, presentations were conducted as live discussions, allowing for greater interaction than in a typical conference. The search for faithful connections, a theme throughout the conference, is a thread that runs through this collection as well.

As both an organizing committee and the editors we wish to thank the authors along with many others for their contributions. Much of the ongoing editorial work was taken up by Amy Casteel, in consultation with the three other editors. We are grateful to all the peer reviewers, to Ana Ashraf, to Johannes van Oorschot and Birgit Weyel for their support of this third volume of the conference series. Ana served as copy editor. Johannes managed the Open Journal System administration from the University of Tübingen. We offer our appreciation to Sofia Nikitaki for her art that graces the cover. A special word of thanks goes to Francesco Punzo, for his work on the layout and typesetting.

As an academy, IAPT continues to strive to do its work through faithful connections in the study of and reflection on practical theology.

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