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## **New Christian Children's Book Celebrates Social Gospel Understanding of Jesus and the Easter Story**

*Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush releases  
Together We Rise: An Easter Story for All Of Us*

**NEW YORK** – Two years ago, Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush was searching for a Christian children's book that would tell the story of Easter in a way that represented his own understanding of Jesus and the meaning of Jesus' life, his crucifixion and his resurrection. As Raushenbush writes in the introduction: "I lamented, as Holy Week rapidly arrived, that I didn't have a children's story of Jesus that reflected my beliefs that I could share with my two sons and their young minds, hearts and spirits. So, I boiled down two thousand years of theology and almost three decades of ministry to the words you are about to read."

Raushenbush put the story on social media and the response was overwhelming. And so he teamed up with production designer Tim Gilman and illustrator Jin Xia to create *Together We Rise: An Easter Story for All of Us*. The book intentionally showcases a diversity of sizes and shapes and colors of humanity featuring a Black Jesus, who in the story is described as "God's heart in human form who came to show a different kind of power to the world, the power of Love."

*"I trained in theology at Union Seminary and am indebted to liberation theologies as well as my great-grandfather Walter Rauschenbusch's contribution through the Social Gospel," remarked Raushenbush. "My hope is that young people will learn the radical message of love and liberation that Jesus brought to the world, especially in this time when too many are using Jesus and Christianity as a bludgeon and a screen for bigotry and hate."*





## About the author:

**Rev. Paul Brandeis Raushenbush** is an ordained American Baptist minister who has served in churches across the country including the historic Riverside Church in New York City. He was Associate Dean of Religious Life and the Chapel at Princeton University and held senior positions at Interfaith America and Auburn Theological Seminary. He was an editor at Beliefnet where he had an advice column called Ask Pastor Paul, which led to the book *Teen Spirit*.

Raushenbush was the founder of HuffPost Religion which was the largest religion website for four years and for which he received a Webby. Raushenbush is the great-grandson of Walter Rauschenbuch, who was the main figure in the Social Gospel in the beginning of the 20th Century and in whose tradition he continues to walk. He is from an interfaith family, with another great-grandfather being Louis D. Brandeis, and he currently serves as President and CEO of Interfaith Alliance.



## Endorsements:

*"A beautiful story of God's love, which is to say Jesus"*

James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus a Pilgrimage*

*"I'm so glad that this beautiful new children's book, Together We Rise, tells children of all ages what is most important to know about Jesus and the message of Easter: that we can all join Jesus and rise up in love for everyone everywhere, no exceptions."*

Brian D. McLaren, author of *Do I Stay Christian?*

*"I'm so thankful that this beautiful colorful book tells the story of our savior Jesus Christ with love, acceptance and compassion! We are all people of God! We are all his creation and that's why he loves us all!"*

Dora Rodriguez, Activist, Survivor & Educator





*"Paul Raushenbush's Together We Rise is indeed an Easter Story for all of us! Central to our Christian faith is how God's Love, embodied in Jesus, defies even death. Your little person, like the women at the cross, will feel both love and joy as they encounter their friend Jesus in this lovely book. I know I did."*

Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, pastor & author of *Fierce Love*

*"Together We Rise is a beautiful, captivating little children's book, creatively retelling of the Easter story from creation to resurrection. With bright, colourful images and short easy to read paragraphs, young readers are introduced to the good news of Jesus. For me one sentence encapsulates the book. "We rise with God's Love that brings us together to love one another, we rise to bring God's promise of justice and freedom to earth as in heaven."*

Rev. Dr. Stephen Sizer, Founder & Director of Peacemaker Trust

*"Together We Rise is the Christian story we need now for our children, focused on the ultimate message of Christ: love, inclusion, and forgiveness."*

Laura Dawn, Founder, ART NOT WAR

*"I will read this book over and over again for the rest of my life. Simply told. This is the reason I became a follower of Jesus."*

Stacey A. Graham, non-profit executive

*"I have two young adult daughters. Oh, how I wish I had this book back then when they needed to hear the story of Jesus for what it is: simple, powerful, and beautiful! Now every Christian parent has this work of great art and profound theology to help them stir the conversation and awaken their child's imagination for what love could mean and do in the world."*

Samir Selmanovic, author & founder of [turncommunity.com](http://turncommunity.com)





*"Clear. Concise. Crisp. I plan to read this book to my future grandkids. Until then, I'll gift a copy to every baby shower or dedication I attend. Paul Raushenbush has, with elegance and scriptural faithfulness, demonstrated how to share the Gospel through a child's voice with everyone. "*

Japhet De Oliveira, Co-founder & President of the One Project

*"What an exemplary book for raising a new generation with clear insights on the Christian witness of living, worshipping and believing together! We have sung it many times. Now, this book illustrates it. Jesus loves all the children of the world - red, yellow, black and white; they are all precious in His sight.*

Antipas L. Harris, PhD.

*"A beautiful telling of the Easter story in words and pictures, centering God's love in Christ for all people. I wish it had been around when our daughters were little!"*

Michael W. Austin, American philosopher & Professor  
of Philosophy at Eastern Kentucky University

*"The simple story is this: the light of Jesus is summed up as an unabashedly, everlasting love, given freely and wholeheartedly to all of creation."*

Tiffany & Mike Norman, Salem, Oregon

*Together We Rise lovingly tells the Easter story in fresh language and stunning images that speak to our world today. The pure simplicity of the language and illustrations magnify the power of the words on the page. Words that inspire, delight, and instruct both young and old. As Raushenbush tells us, Jesus was God's heart in human form, and together, we do rise, holding hands across all human barriers, if only we will listen and learn. Together.*

The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Rankin, author, *I Am That Child*





*“Together We Rise, is a great reminder of what is important and real in our lives. It took only minutes to read, but the lessons last a lifetime.”*

John Nilsen, pianist, guitarist, vocalist & songwriter

*“Paul delivers the message at the heart of Jesus’s teaching, Love, in a simple and direct way . . . validating a child’s natural feeling for inclusivity and connectedness is key”*

Magdalene Sacranie, Author & Storyteller, Oxford, UK

*“Together We Rise makes the core of Jesus’s teachings as simple as they were meant to be: we need to love, radically, and forget no one — especially those most easily forgotten. If you’re a parent or leader hoping to teach the transcendent, dignifying, and practical love of Jesus to children, use this book.”*

Tim & Aubrey Chaves, hosts of the Faith Matters podcast

*Oh, I love this! We need more storytellers like Paul Raushenbush and Jin Xia to take our story back. Something worth passing on to our kids again. What’s not to love?*

Ken Wilson, Pastor Emeritus, Blue Ocean Church Ann Arbor



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