

Racial Justice and Healing Annotated Bibliography

Updated November 2022

Suggested Reading for the 2022 Advent Series

Books (also included in author listing below)

1. Meeks, Catherine, Ed. *Living into God's Dream*. Morehouse Publishing. A collection of essays that focus on how we as church can begin to build the Beloved Community Jesus called for. Catherine Meeks is one of our Spiritual Guides on our pilgrimage.
2. Meeks, Catherine. *The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning*. Morehouse Publishing. [To be released in November 2022.]
3. Miller, Reuben Jonathan. *Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*. Back Bay Books, Little Brown & Company, 2021.
4. Moore, Osheta. *Dear White Peacemakers: Dismantling Racism with Grit and Grace*. Herald Press, 2021. "Dear White Peacemakers is an invitation to white Christians to come to the table and join this hard work and holy calling. Rooted in the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus, this book is a challenging call to transform white shame, fragility, saviorism, and privilege, in order to work together to build the Beloved Community as anti-racism peacemakers."
<https://heraldpress.com/9781513807669/dear-white-peacemakers/>
5. Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy*. Spiegel & Grau/Random House. The story of the formation of the Equal Justice Initiative and their efforts to seek fair trials for people on death row. (Also a movie)
6. Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Beacon Press, Boston, 1949; 1996. A short, profound book that shaped the Civil Rights Movement by the minister, theologian, mystic-prophet, and Civil Rights Movement leader Howard Thurman.

Suggested Viewing

Northern Province Racial Justice Team's Advent and Lenten "A New Way of Being" Series (3) and other resources: <https://www.moravian.org/northern/category/racial-justice-and-healing/>

Other Media

1. *Race: The Power of An Illusion* is a three-part Video Series available through Vimeo. MCNP has purchased the rights for this series. Pass-coded access is available for members of the Moravian Church Northern Province per our licensing agreement. Contact Sue Koenig, Director of Racial Justice and Healing at suekoenig@mcnp.org for information.
2. 13th – Documentary film that explores the "intersection of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States;" it is titled after the **Thirteenth** Amendment to the United States Constitution, adopted in 1865, which abolished slavery throughout the United States and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for conviction ...
3. Free to Ride – <http://www.kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/watchfreetoride>. One hour. Inspirational true story of a group of people in Ohio who addressed transportation inequities across a racial divide in their community bringing about transformative change.
4. Adam Ruins Everything - *The Disturbing History of the Suburbs*; 6-minute video about the ongoing effects of redlining today. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETR9qrVS17g>

For Further Reading (alphabetical by author)

Barndt, Joseph. *Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying toward Wholeness*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2011. (199 pgs.)

A guide for "...mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic churches in the United States..." "to help equip Christians to address racism within these predominantly white churches and religious institutions" at all levels. Theologically and biblically based by an author with more than 30

years of anti-racism training and research.

Brown, Austin Channing. *I Am Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. New York: Convergent Books/Random House, 2018. A quick read (laity friendly) that brings up lots of issues dealing with racism in a disarming way.

Campt, David W. *The White Ally Toolkit Workbook: Using Active Listening, Empathy, and Personal Storytelling to Promote Racial Equity*. Boston: I Am Publications, 2018. (265 pgs.) Leads white allies to think and write reflectively about how they would engage and respond to racism and racism skeptics in ways that honor dignity, experiences, and stories; and explains why this is a better way to bring about transformative change.

Carter, Terrell. *Healing Racial Divides: Finding Strength in Our Diversity*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2018. (120 pgs.)

Easy read and very accessible. Carter, pastor and former police officer, urges the church to lead the healing of racial divisions; provides suggestions for preaching about race. Online study guide at ChalicePress.com/HealingRacialDivides. Podcast of the author discussing the book at <https://www.pulpitfiction.com/notes/tns6-4>.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*. New York, NY: Spiegel & Grau, 2015.

In Coates' letter to his fifteen-year-old son, Samori, he weaves his personal, historical, and intellectual development into his ruminations on how to live in a black body in America.

Cone, James. *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*.

This book examines the U.S. society cross bearers in those beaten and hung from one of our culture's forms of racial terror – the lynching tree. Cone inspires the faithful to hope and action for "God still has a way of wringing good out of evil."

Diangelo, Robin. *White Fragility: Why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism*. 2018: Beacon Press.

Diangelo is an academic who "brings language to the emotional structures that make true discussions about racial attitudes difficult." One cover review suggests it is "a necessary book for all people invested in societal change."

Harper, Lisa Sharon. *The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can Be Made Right*. New York: Waterbrook, 2016.

A deep exploration of the biblical meaning of Shalom and dominion, and God's vision for wholeness and healing.

Helsel, Carolyn B. *Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism*. 2017: Chalice Press.

Accessible; a good starter book for the topic of racism. She speaks honestly and gently, which helps people hear her message. Questions for discussion, helpful for a group study.

Helsel, Carolyn B. *Preaching About Racism: A Guide for Faith Leaders*. 2018: Chalice Press.

Accessible with discussion questions. Helsel, who is white, writes for white preachers who sense a need to address racism but know they will meet resistance in their congregations.

Hill, Daniel. *White Awake: An honest look at what it means to be white*. 2017: Intervarsity Press.

Hill is a white pastor of a 'vibrant, multiethnic church in...Chicago.' The book offers seven states to expect in a personal path to cultural awakening: Encounter, Denial, Disorientation, Shame, Self-Righteousness, Awakening, Active Participation.

Jacobsen, Dennis A. *Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2017.

An introduction to congregation-based community organizing that is biblical and theological and offers skills and strategies and accompanying stories and examples.

Jacobsen, Dennis A. *A Spirituality for Doing Justice: Reflections for Congregation-Based Organizers*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2021.

This book contains images of icons that Jacobsen painted, and the first part of the book is a reflection on each of the 10 icons. The second part is a four-week Daily Office for Doing Justice with readings and litanies for morning and evening prayer.

Maxwell, David, ed. *Race in a Post-Obama America: The Church Responds*. 2016: Westminster Press.

This book, written by a variety of contributors, offers a historical review of racism, addresses questions about racism today (“Did Obama’s election end racism?”), and then turns to action. The Foreword is written by Otis Moss III.

Meeks, Catherine, Ed. *Living into God’s Dream*. Morehouse Publishing, 2016.

A collection of essays that focus on how we as church can begin to build the Beloved Community Jesus called for.

Meeks, Catherine. *The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning*. Morehouse Publishing. [To be released in November 2022.]

Miller, Reuben Jonathan. *Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration*. Back Bay Books, Little Brown & Company, 2021.

Morrison, Latasha. *Be the Bridge: Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation*. New York: Waterbrook, 2019. A resource for Christian dialogue to assist churches in a transformative response to racism. Each of the chapters includes questions and prayers or litanies for small groups.

The National Council of Churches. United Against Racism: Churches for Change. New York: Friendship Press, 2018.

A collection of worship resources, key terms, etc.

Oluo, Ijeoma. *So You Want to Talk About Race*. New York, NY: Seal Press, 2018.

Each chapter is framed as a question which Oluo unpacks thoroughly and rationally. Some of the questions seek to define loaded words/phrases and their implications: racism, intersectionality, police brutality, privilege, affirmative action, cultural appropriation, microaggressions, etc.

Singh, Anneliese A. Singh, PhD., LPC. *The Racial Healing Handbook: Practical Activities to Help You Challenge Privilege, Confront Systemic Racism & Engage in Collective Healing*. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, 2019. [Distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books]

An accessible workbook that guides the reader to explore racism and its personal and societal affects, promote healing, and develop skills for fighting racism and creating healing communities. A downloadable reading group guide is available.

Stevenson, Bryan. *Just Mercy*. Spiegel & Grau/Random House, 2014.

The story of the formation of the Equal Justice Initiative and their efforts to seek fair trials for people on death row.

Tatum, Beverly Daniel. *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria and Other Conversations About Race, Revised and Updated, 20th Anniversary Edition*. New York: Basic Books, 2017.

Presents theories of race development and how being with peer groups helps to shape identity at different stages of life.

Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Beacon Press, Boston, 1949; 1996. A short, profound book that shaped the Civil Rights Movement by the minister, theologian, mystic-prophet, and Civil Rights Movement leader Howard Thurman.

Tisby, Jemar. *The Color of Compromise*. Zondervan. Available in print, Kindle, Audible.

A very helpful overview of the role of the church in slavery through history up to today and a challenge to stop complicit behaviors and assumptions. Many terms about church and race are explained in helpful ways that tie the past with today.

Tochluk, Shelly, PhD., *Witnessing Whiteness*. Rowan & Littlefield Education, 2007; second edition 2010. ShellyTochluk.com; stochluk@msmu.edu

“Introductory Resource List for Skills Building/Conversational Strategies for Difficult Dialogues”

Wallis, Jim. *America's Original Sin – Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*. Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing, 2016.

Wallis offers a prophetic and deeply personal call to action in overcoming the racism so ingrained in American society. He speaks candidly to Christians--particularly white Christians--urging them to cross a new bridge toward racial justice and healing.

Wilkerson, Isabel. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. New York: Random House, 2010.

The story of America's Great Migration told through the lives of three people. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

Wilkerson, Isabel. *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. New York: Random House, 2020.

An exploration of “how American today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings” through an “immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people.”

Willimon, Will. *Who Lynched Willie Earle?* Abington Press, 2017.

This is a quick, but important read. Willimon, professor of Christian Ministry at Duke University, relates the history of a lynching that took place in his hometown in 1947. He exegetes the sermon preached by a lone white pastor who spoke out against the lynching. Willimon names racism as a sin and calls all preachers to confront racism in their preaching. Willimon offers practical ways to do this.

Wise, Tim. *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*. 2005: Soft Skull Press.

Written as a ‘take-off’ on James Baldwin’s classic “Black Like Me” from the 1960’s, the author offers reflections on race from his perspective as a white man who experiences privilege simply by his race and gender.

Other Resources

[Everyday Democracy. Facing Racism in a Diverse Nation: A Guide for Public Dialogue and Problem Solving \(56 pgs.\)](#)

Workbook for round table. Very accessible. Includes an “Overview of Dialogue-to-Change Process” with questions for dialogue designed to “build new relationship and trust; raise awareness and consider a range of views; develop new ideas; and create action ideas.”

<https://www.everyday-democracy.org/resources/facing-racism-diverse-nation>]

White Privilege *Let's Talk: A Resource for Transformative Dialogue*. United Church of Christ.

Five-part small group study with five contributors in “conversation” about race issues. Two parts: “Spiritual Autobiography Told Through the Lens of Race” and perspectives on “Whiteness as the Norm.” Sections on education, housing, wealth, and medical care through their lens of race. Each chapter includes reflection questions and discussion topics.

Work of David Anderson Hooker One example (5:22 min.):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfXxOdrmsOg>

Summary of points from the video: Reconciliation is an on-going process; not “reconciled” but “reconciling.”