

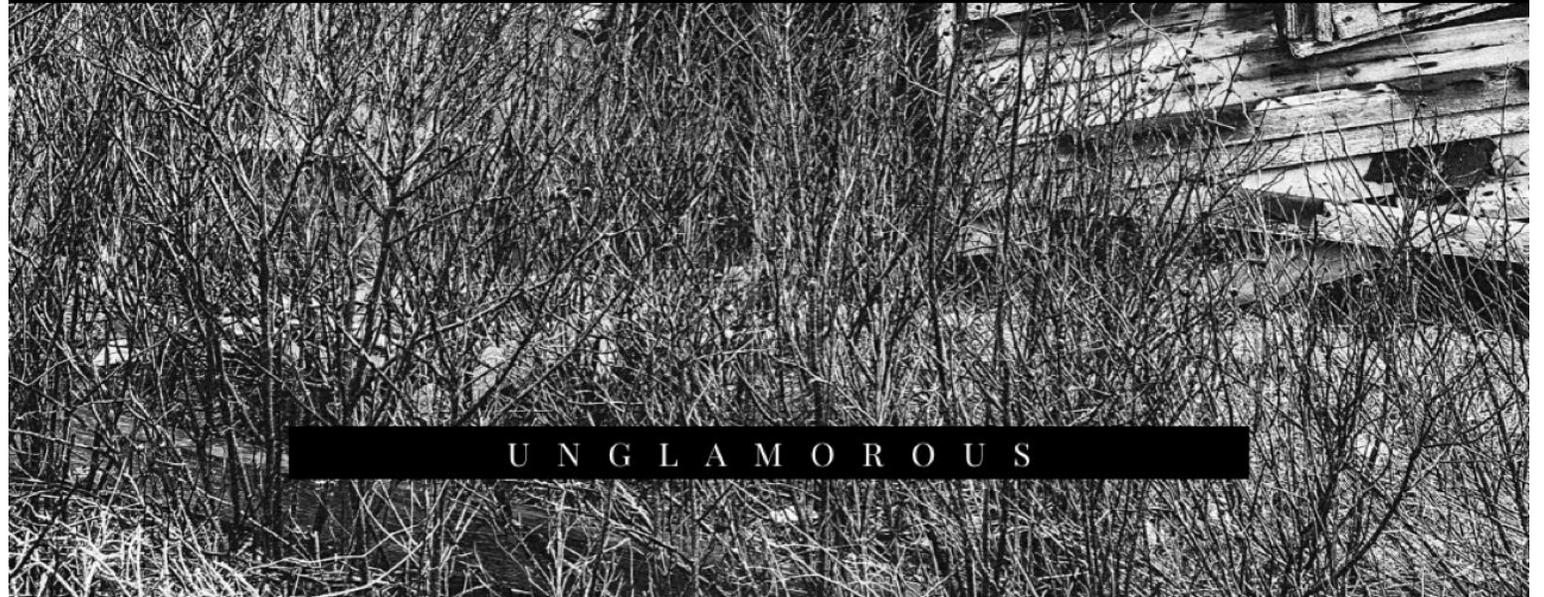
Community
of Care:
March 3, 2021

UNGLAMOROUS LENTEN
SERIES

The Conflict: Assessing the Damage



THE CONFLICT
ASSESSING THE DAMAGE



UNGLAMOROUS



**UN-
GLAMOUROUS**

We are Committed

**"IF YOU ARE NEUTRAL IN SITUATIONS OF INJUSTICE,
YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE SIDE OF THE OPPRESSOR."**

— DESMOND TUTU

Race & Inequality from a Christian Framework

A Lenten Series



United Church

Discover. Your way.



WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY OF CARE

- Glad to see you back! See who is here and greet them:
- Appreciate that ***We are not alone***
- Please Mute your Audio until we ask for participation

TAKE A MOMENT TO BREATHE

We are here in part because of the protest and discussion that arose after George Floyd's infamous plea:

"I can't Breathe"

- Pay attention to your breathing...rising & falling
- Just notice and acknowledge any physical or emotional discomfort you are experiencing in this moment



- **Let us light a candle and join together in creating A “Brave Space”**

Invitation to Brave Space by Micky ScottBey Jones

*Together we will create brave space
Because there is no such thing as a “safe space”
We exist in the real world
We all carry scars and we have all caused wounds
This space will not be perfect
But
It will be our brave space
together
And we will work on it
side by side.*



Luke 14:25-34 - The Cost Of Being A Disciple

Vv.25 – 27

**Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:
“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.
And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”**

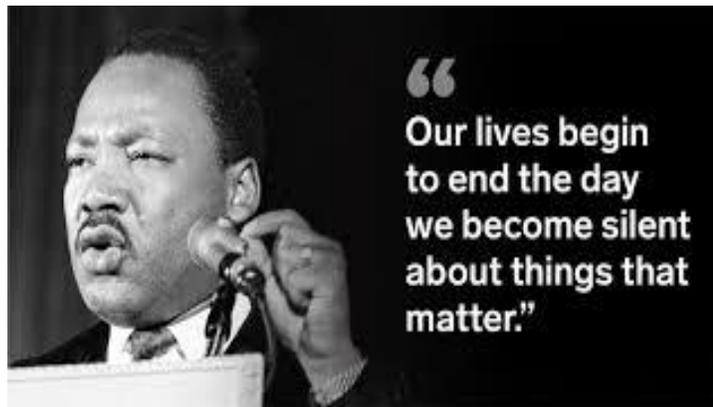


"We are taking on the difficult work of dealing with inequality and racism - to move beyond the conflict - of being more than mere spectators - to the centre of life where hatred, evil and racism diminish God's dream for us..."

"It is a dangerous demanding adventure to be a disciple. The world is a dangerous place for those seeking to transform the world"

Don Parsons

ESG Sermon February 28, 2021



- Just like Jesus asked his disciples to take time to consider the price they would be paying to follow him, *it's important that we take time to assess the damage racism, white supremacy and colonization has had on marginalized communities.*
- In order for us to be moved by the harm and oppression that communities of colour have faced, we need to expose ourselves to their realities. We need to allow ourselves to step into their shoes for a moment.

Heather Beamish

➤ **WATCH:** Ruth B. - If I Have A Son (Official Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEDdlvim80M>



RACISM IN CANADA

- It is essential for us to look at the harmful realities of our past and present. Information and experience are the antidote to ignorance.
- This is a Canadian issue. Racism is part of our society and government, and we need to begin seeing the truth of this if we want to help fight it.



The point is that every incident of racism diminishes us all. It diminishes the racist, the target of the attack, and all of us in the human family, regardless of our race. If our neighbour has been attacked, then so have we."

Lawrence Hill

“As Canadians, it is so easy to think that because we are a multicultural society, and we believe all people are equal, we can't be racist. And because we are mainstream, we don't feel racial discomfort ourselves, so we don't think racism exists.

“Because we as whites are part of the mainstream in our culture, we often fail to see how white prevalence and superiority in government, industry and professional life affects opportunities for people of colour, who are more marginalized, and so we don't challenge the status quo.”

Nora Wilson

From her Reflection in ESG's "We Are Not Alone" Newsletter March 3, 2021

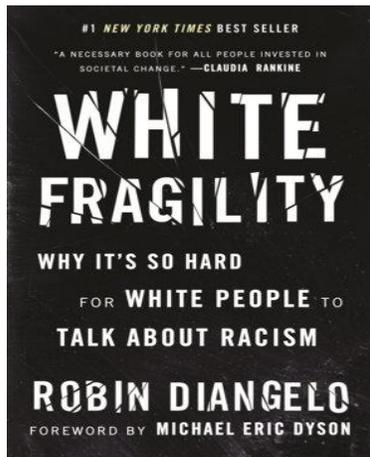


STRUCTURAL RACISM: is the racial bias across institutions and society. It describes the cumulative and compounding effects of an array of factors that systematically privilege white people and disadvantage people of color.

WHITE SUPREMACY: The ideology that white people and the ideas, thoughts, beliefs, and actions of white people are superior to People of Color and their ideas, thoughts, beliefs, and actions...

Drawing from critical race theory, the term “white supremacy” refers to a political or socio-economic system where white people enjoy structural advantage and rights that other racial and ethnic groups do not, both at a collective and an individual level.

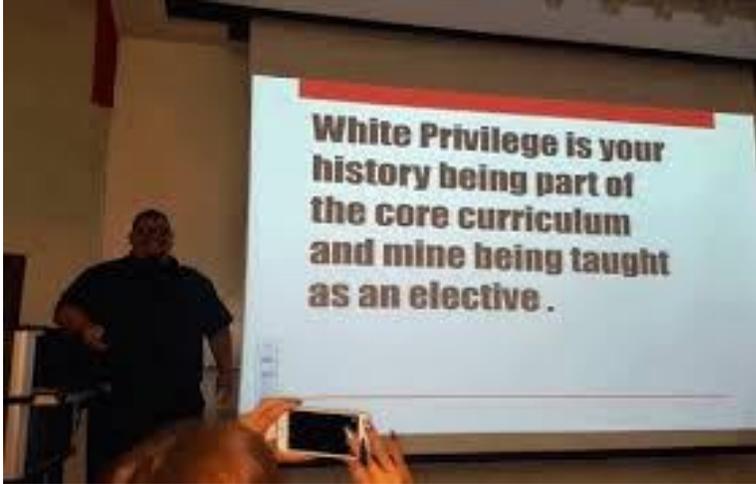
WHITE FRAGILITY: A state in which even a minimum amount of racial stress becomes intolerable [for white people], triggering a range of defensive moves including the outward display of emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and behaviours such as argumentation, silence, and leaving the stress-inducing situation.



WHAT IS WHITE PRIVILEGE?

White Privilege
(n.) / pron: [wahyt priv-uh-lij]

1. Unearned advantage based on race, which can be observed both systemically and individually



© Getty Images/AFP/E. Caballero-Reynolds

CHECK YOURSELF: THE WHITE PRIVILEGE TEST: (8 of 26 questions)

- If I wish to, I can arrange to be in the company of people of my race most of the time.
- I can go to a museum or art gallery and will see people of my race widely represented in the objects and artworks.
- I can count on my skin colour not to work against the appearance of my financial reliability.
- I can do well professionally without being called a credit to my race.
- I am never asked to speak for my entire racial group.
- If a police officer stops me, I can be sure I haven't been singled out because of my race.
- I can choose make up or bandages in flesh colour and have them more or less match my skin.

MORE RACIAL AWARENESS QUESTIONS:

- Who are your ten closest friends? What is the racial mix in this group?
- As you move through the day, what's the racial composition of the people around you? On your commute? At the coffee shop you go to? At the gym? At your workplace? At the show you go on the weekend?
- What percentage of the day are you able to be with people of your own racial identity?



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Systemic Racism means it is bigger than us and all around us.

It is socially learned and reinforced in our families, institutions and communities until it has become internalized and automatic.

➤ ***BUT: We are ultimately responsible for what we DO now & moving forward***

We need to be willing to admit that WE ARE ALL racist, even if it is in small subtle ways.

We are part of the problem, in spite of our good intentions.

*This is **The DAMAGE** that we are assessing.*

We need to be aware so that we can move forward with a sense of equality in our common humanity and appreciation of the riches of our diversity.

Assumptions, Attitudes and behaviour can be changed

QUOTES TO DISCUSS & APPLY: from White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People To Talk About Racism by Robin Diangelo

- “The key to moving forward is what we do with our discomfort. We can use it as a door out—blame the messenger and disregard the message. Or we can use it as a door in by asking, ***“Why does this unsettle me? What would it mean for me if this were true?”***”
- If I believe that only bad people are racist, I will feel hurt, offended, and shamed when an unaware racist assumption of mine is pointed out. If I instead believe that having **racist assumptions is inevitable (but possible to change)**, I will feel gratitude when an unaware racist assumption is pointed out; **now I am aware of and can change that assumption.**”
- “White progressives can be the most difficult for people of color because, to the degree that we think we have **arrived**, we will put our energy into making sure that others see us as having arrived. None of our energy will go into what we need to be doing for the rest of our lives: ***engaging in ongoing self-awareness, continuing education, relationship building, and actual antiracist practice.***”

REMEMBER: WE ARE NOT ALONE

- Just like any big project we embark on, there will be times that we get tired and think it would be easier to quit, that's one of the reasons why we are doing this together as a community.
- This family of faith has got your back. We are confronting the same ugly truths about our nation's history, our history.

Don Parsons:

“How do we begin to create an environment where God’s dream for us may come true?”

“Start by being Love with skin on it” – in all we do.
That is what discipleship looks like with Jesus.
It is a place to begin.

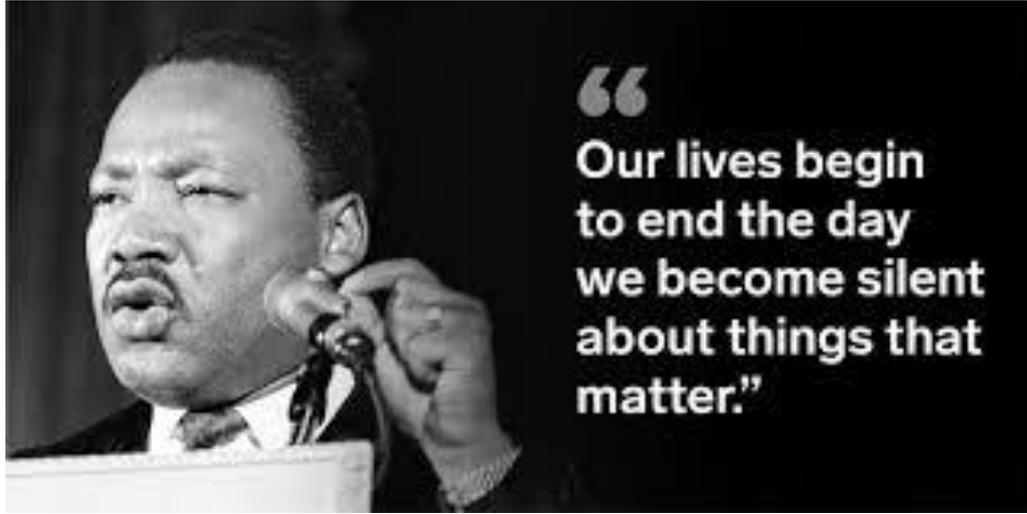


A TIME TO SHARE YOUR PRAYERS & Greetings or people you wish to mention

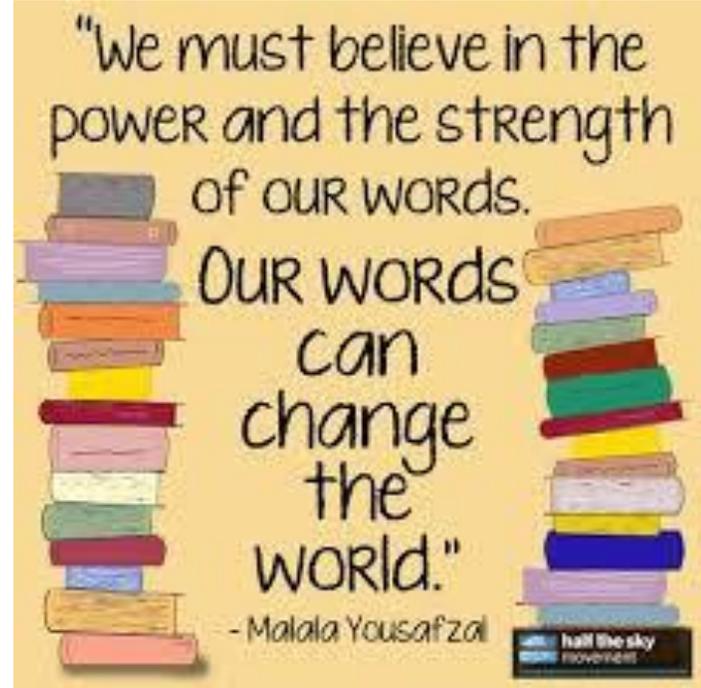
- An opportunity for your 'Conversation with God'
- Turn On your Audio/ Video if you choose...
- I'll start with my prayer, then as you are comfortable,
- Feel free to join or in silence
- Offer your Prayers or thoughts for others
- I will close



- **NEXT WEEK: The Change: The Necessary work of Decolonization.**



“
Our lives begin
to end the day
we become silent
about things that
matter.”



“We must believe in the
power and the strength
of our words.
Our words
can
change
the
world.”

- Malala Yousafzai

