

# 21-Day Race Equity Challenge

**Isaiah 1:17: Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.**

This verse from Isaiah is just one of many verses that instruct us, as God's people, to be a voice for justice. While it is much easier to be silent in the face of the inequalities and violence that stem from continuing racial discrimination and oppression, God's people are called to do what is hard. Many members of the Advent community have been studying, talking and acting in this arena for the past year, some well before that time. It would be a great testament to the Isaiah verse if our entire community would take time to become acquainted with the many resources available so that we could better equip ourselves to do this work together. At our last seminar about the call for predominantly white churches to be a stronger lead in this area, the question was posed "What is one thing that the whole Advent community could get behind and support in the arena of Racial Justice?" An answer to that question needs participation of the whole congregation.

Beginning May 9<sup>th</sup>, we invite everyone in the Advent community to engage in the 21-Day Race Equity Challenge. There is a calendar available below with links to curated material for each day - the time commitment ranges between 3 – 17 minutes. You will find music, poetry, articles and videos in the resources provided. This calendar was developed for conversations with older youth in mind by another ELCA church using the vast materials in the original challenge that many of us discussed last year. Equally important to the reading and viewing is the dialogue that follows. We will host a Zoom session each Sunday and Wednesday at 7:00pm to discuss the materials that have been covered since the last Zoom. The first Sunday will be Amanda Gorman's poem "The Hill We Climb" and a kickoff facilitated by Eric Heberlig. Each Wednesday and Sunday after that we will discuss all the materials since the previous meeting. Zoom links will be on the Advent website homepage along with the materials. You do not need to sign up to attend – you can drop into all or some of the Zoom sessions as your schedule allows.

In addition to these Zoom meetings, existing Advent small groups will be incorporating this discussion into their meetings. At the conclusion, we would like to have as many folks as possible be answering the question "What part of Racial Justice work can the Advent congregation agree to engage in together?" Feedback will be lifted-up to the Council and this direction will be weaved into our planning for 2021/2022 and beyond.

## Schedule of Meetings and Leaders

Sun	5/9	-	Eric Heberlig
Wed	5/12	-	Diane Wassum
Sun	5/16	-	Esther Abdel-Hameed
Wed	5/19	-	Caroline Grubb
Sun	5/23	-	Marc Jensen
Wed	5/26	-	Pastor Ward & Carol Schierlmann

The Zoom connection information for this event is available on the [Member Dashboard](#) page and found under the **About Us** menu, or by clicking the links below:

**Calendar**      click here: [21-Day Race Equity Challenge Calendar](#)

**Sunday**        click here: [21-Day Race Equity Challenge - Sunday](#)

**Wednesday**    click here: [21-Day Race Equity Challenge - Wednesday](#)