

## St. William Community – Peace & Social Justice Committee – Racial Justice Resources

### Books:

1. Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New Press, 2020.

Michelle Alexander is a civil rights litigator and legal scholar. The book discusses race-related issues specific to African-American males and mass incarceration in the United States, but Alexander noted that the discrimination faced by African-American males is prevalent among other minorities and socio-economically disadvantaged populations.

2. Asim, Jabari. *We Can't Breathe: On Black Lives, White Lies, and the Art of Survival*. Picador, 2018.

In *We Can't Breathe*, Jabari Asim disrupts what Toni Morrison has exposed as the “Master Narrative” and replaces it with a story of black survival and persistence through art and community in the face of centuries of racism. In eight wide-ranging and penetrating essays, he explores such topics as the twisted legacy of jokes and falsehoods in black life; the importance of black fathers and community; the significance of black writers and stories; and the beauty and pain of the black body.

3. Berry, Daina Ramey and Kali Nicole Gross. *A Black Women's History of the United States*. Beacon Press, 2020.

A vibrant and empowering history that emphasizes the perspectives and stories of African American women to show how they are—and have always been—instrumental in shaping our country

4. Brown, Austin Channing. *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. Convergent Books, 2018.

From a leading voice on racial justice, an eye-opening account of growing up Black, Christian, and female that exposes how white America's love affair with “diversity” so often falls short of its ideals. In a time when nearly every institution (schools, churches, universities, businesses) claims to value diversity in its mission statement, Austin writes in breathtaking detail about her journey to self-worth and the pitfalls that kill our attempts at racial justice.

5. Conwill, Kinshasha Holmes (Editor) and National Museum of African American History & Culture. *Dream a World Anew: The African American Experience and the Shaping of America*. Smithsonian Books, 2016.

The stunning gift book accompanying the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. It combines informative narratives from leading scholars, curators, and authors with objects from the museum's collection to present a thorough exploration of African American history and culture.

6. Darity Jr., William A. and A. Kirsten Mullen. *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century*. University of North Carolina Press, 2020.

Racism and discrimination have choked economic opportunity for African Americans at nearly every turn. At several historic moments, the trajectory of racial inequality could have been altered dramatically. Perhaps no moment was more opportune than the early days of Reconstruction, when the U.S. government temporarily implemented a major redistribution of land from former slaveholders to the newly emancipated enslaved. But neither Reconstruction nor the New Deal nor the civil rights struggle led to an economically just and fair nation. Today, systematic inequality persists in the form of housing discrimination, unequal education, police brutality, mass incarceration, employment discrimination, and massive wealth and opportunity gaps.

7. DiAngelo, Robin and Michael Eric Dyson. *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. Beacon Press, 2018.

Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue. The author examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively.

8. Degruy, Joy. *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury & Healing*. Joy Degruy Publications Inc, 2017.

Dr. DeGruy encourages African Americans to view their attitudes, assumptions, and behaviors through the lens of history and so gain a greater understanding of how centuries of slavery and oppression have impacted people of African descent in America.

9. Eberhardt, Jennifer. *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think and Do*. Penguin Books, 2019.

Eberhardt addresses how racial bias is not the fault of nor restricted to a few “bad apples” but is present at all levels of society in media, education, and business. Unconscious bias can be at work without our realizing it, and even when we genuinely wish to treat all people equally, ingrained stereotypes can infect our visual perception, attention, memory, and behavior. Eberhardt reminds us that racial bias is a human problem—one all people can play a role in solving.

10. Gates Jr., Henry Louis. *The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song*. Penguin Press, 2021

In this tender and expansive reckoning with the meaning of the Black Church in America, Gates takes us on a journey spanning more than five centuries, from the intersection of Christianity and the transatlantic slave trade to today’s political landscape. At road’s end, and after Gates’s distinctive meditation on the churches of his childhood, we emerge with a new understanding of the importance of African American religion to the larger national narrative—as a center of resistance to slavery and white supremacy, as a magnet for political mobilization, as an incubator of musical and oratorical talent that would transform the culture, and as a crucible for working through the Black community’s most critical personal and social issues.

11. Hunter, Marcus Anthony and Zandria F. Robinson. *Chocolate Cities: The Black Map of American Life*. University of California Press, 2018.

From Central District Seattle to Harlem to Holly Springs, Black people have built a dynamic network of cities and towns where Black culture is maintained, created, and defended. But imagine—what if current maps of Black life are wrong? *Chocolate Cities* offers a refreshing and persuasive rendering of the United States—a “Black map” that more accurately reflects the lived experiences and the future of Black life in America. Drawing on film, fiction, music, and oral history, Hunter and Robinson trace the Black American experience of race, place, and liberation, mapping it from Emancipation to now.

12. Kaur, Valerie. *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. One World, 2020.

How do we love in a time of rage? How do we fix a broken world while not breaking ourselves? Valerie Kaur describes revolutionary love as the call of our time, a radical, joyful practice that extends in three directions: to others, to our opponents, and to ourselves. It enjoins us to see no stranger but instead look at others and say: *You are part of me I do not yet know*. Starting from that place of wonder, the world begins to change: It is a practice that can transform a relationship, a community, a culture, even a nation.

13. Kendi, Ibram X. *How to Be an Antiracist*. One World, 2019.

Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves.

14. Kendi, Ibram X. *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of African America, 1619-2019*. One World, 2021.

*Four Hundred Souls* is a unique one-volume “community” history of African Americans. The editors have assembled ninety brilliant writers, each of whom takes on a five-year period of that four-hundred-year span. The writers explore their periods through a variety of techniques: historical essays, short stories, personal vignettes, and fiery polemics. They approach history from various perspectives: through the eyes of towering historical icons or the untold stories of ordinary people; through places, laws, and objects.

15. King Jr., Martin Luther. *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*. Beacon Press, 2010.

In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., isolated himself from the demands of the civil rights movement, rented a house in Jamaica with no telephone, and labored over his final manuscript. In this prophetic work, which has been unavailable for more than ten years, he lays out his thoughts, plans, and dreams for America's future, including the need for better jobs, higher wages, decent housing, and quality education. With a universal message of hope that continues to resonate, King demanded an end to global suffering, asserting that humankind—for the first time—has the resources and technology to eradicate poverty.

16. Lewis John, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell. *March: Book One*. Top Shelf Productions, 2016.

A series of three graphic novels retelling the story of the civil rights movement. Wonderful for young teens 13-16.

17. Massingale, Bishop Bryan N. *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*. Orbis Books, 2010.

A leading black Catholic moral theologian addresses the thorny issue of racial justice past and present. Massingale writes from an abiding conviction that the Catholic faith and the black experience make essential contributions in the continuing struggle against racial injustice that is the work of all people.

18. Menakem, Resmaa. *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*. Central Recovery Press, 2017.

Therapist Resmaa Menakem examines the damage caused by racism in America from the perspective of trauma and body-centered psychology. The body is where our instincts reside and where we fight, flee, or freeze, and it endures the trauma inflicted by the ills that plague society. Menakem argues this destruction will continue until Americans learn to heal the generational anguish of white supremacy, which is deeply embedded in all our bodies.

19. Oluo, Ijeoma. *So You Want to Talk About Race*. Seal Press, 2019.

Oluo guides readers of all races through subjects ranging from intersectionality and affirmative action to “model minorities” in an attempt to make the seemingly impossible possible: honest conversations about race and racism and how they infect almost every aspect of American life. The author works to bridge the gap between people of color and white Americans struggling with race complexities by answering questions readers do not ask and explaining concepts that continue to elude everyday Americans.

20. Proenza-Coles, Christina. *American Founders: How People of African Descent Established Freedom in the New World*. New South Books, 2019.

*American Founders* reveals men and women of African descent as key protagonists in the story of American democracy. It chronicles how black people developed and defended New World settlements, undermined slavery, and championed freedom throughout the hemisphere from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries. The multitude of events and mixed-race individuals included in the book underscores that black and white Americans share the same history, and in many cases, the same ancestry. *American Founders* is meant to celebrate this shared heritage and strengthen these bonds.

21. Rothstein, Richard. *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. Liveright, 2018.

Exploding the myth of de facto segregation arising from private prejudice or the unintended consequences of economic forces, Rothstein describes how the American government systematically imposed residential segregation: with undisguised racial zoning; public housing that purposefully segregated previously mixed communities; subsidies for builders to create whites-only suburbs; tax exemptions for institutions that enforced segregation; and support for violent resistance to African Americans in white neighborhoods.

22. Edited by the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. *Unsung: Unheralded Narratives of American Slavery & Abolition*. Penguin Classics, 2021.

A new historical anthology from transatlantic slavery to Reconstruction. *Unsung* makes the case for focusing on the histories of Black people as agents and architects of their own lives and ultimate liberation. *Unsung* will draw from the Schomburg's rich holdings in order to lead a dynamic discussion of slavery, rebellion, resistance, and anti-slavery protest in the United States.

23. Segura, Olga M.. *Birth of a Movement: Black Lives Matter and the Catholic Church*. Orbis Books, 2021.

*Birth of a Movement* offers a Christ-like perspective of the Black Lives Matter movement through its radical call to dignity and equality for all people. It examines the founders of the movement and the church's involvement with slavery, including the more recent decision by Georgetown University to make amends for its past actions.

24. Tisby, Jemar. *How To Fight Racism: How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey Toward Racial Justice*. Zondervan, 2021.

Racism is pervasive in today's world, and many are complicit in the failure to confront its evils. Tisby believes we need to move beyond mere discussions *about* racism and begin equipping people with the practical tools to fight against it. Tisby roots the ultimate solution to racism in the Christian faith as we embrace the implications of what Jesus taught his followers. Beginning in the church, he provides an opportunity to be part of the solution and suggests that the application of these principles can offer us hope that will transform our nation and the world. Tisby encourages us to reject passivity and become active participants in the struggle for human dignity across racial and ethnic lines.

25. Tisby, Jemar. *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*. Zondervan, 2020.

Equal parts painful and inspirational, it details how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices. You will be guided in thinking through concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church. It *is* a call from a place of love and desire to fight for a more racially unified church that no longer compromises what the Bible teaches about human dignity and equality.

26. Wilkerson, Isabel. *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*. Random House, 2020

Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more.

27. Wilkerson, Isabel. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. Vintage, 2011.

Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.

## Magazine Articles & TED Talks:

1. Coates, Ta-Nehisi. The Case for Reparations. The Atlantic, June 2014.  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

Two hundred fifty years of slavery. Ninety years of Jim Crow. Sixty years of separate but equal. Thirty-five years off racist housing policy. Until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole.

2. Coates, Ta-Nehisi. The Case for Considering Reparations. The Atlantic, Jan. 27, 2016  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/01/tanehisi-coates-reparations/427041/>

A country that could actively contemplate atoning for plunder would be a very different nation than one we live in now.

3. Douglass, Frederick. "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?"  
<https://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/what-to-the-slave-is-the-fourth-of-july/>

A historical address by Frederick Douglass, exposing the hypocrisy of American Christians and the racist systems it protects.

4. Kendi, Ibram X. TED Talks – The Difference Between Being “Not Racist” and Antiracist. March, 2020.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/ibram\\_x\\_kendi\\_the\\_difference\\_between\\_being\\_not\\_racist\\_and\\_antiracist?utm\\_campaign=tedsread&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=tedcomshare](https://www.ted.com/talks/ibram_x_kendi_the_difference_between_being_not_racist_and_antiracist?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)

"There is no such thing as being "not racist," says author and historian Ibram X. Kendi." In this 51-minute video, Kendi "defines the transformative concept of antiracism to help us more clearly recognize, take responsibility for and reject prejudices in our public policies, workplaces and personal beliefs. Learn how you can actively use this awareness to uproot injustice and inequality in the world -- and replace it with love."

5. King, Jr., Martin Luther. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail."  
[http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/letter\\_birmingham\\_jail.pdf](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/letter_birmingham_jail.pdf)

A must-read essay from the civil rights movement that still has moral force today.



6. Massingale, Bryan. TEDx Talks - How the Church Can Combat Racism and White privilege. June 5, 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONiie2oYJCQ>

Father Bryan Massingale discusses racism, white privilege and what the church can do to address racism.

7. Massingale, Bryan, The assumptions of white privilege and what we can do about it. National Catholic Reporter, June 5, 2020.

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/assumptions-white-privilege-and-what-we-can-do-about-it>

Fr. Bryan Massingale uses the example of Amy Cooper calling the police on a black man in Central Park to discuss the only reason for racism's persistence is that white people continue to benefit from it.

8. Massingale, Bryan. The assumptions of white privilege and what we can do about it. National Catholic Reporter, June 5, 2020.
9. Massingale, Bryan. Liberty and Justice for All: An Inauguration prayer. Jan. 20, 2021.
10. Shutack, Corinne. 103 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice. Aug13, 2017.  
  
<https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>
11. Tochluk, Shelly. Tedx Talks, Let's Talk About Race. Feb. 7, 2017.  
  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tUBJ-1MWG8>
12. White, Gillian B.. How Did We Get Here? 163 of *The Atlantic's* writing on race and racism in America. The Atlantic, June 16, 2020.  
  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2020/06/atlantic-reader-race-and-racism-us/613057/>

This is an amazing one stop resource on articles on race and racism in America.

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## **Movies:**

1. 13<sup>th</sup>. Netflix, 2016.  
In this thought-provoking documentary, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom.
2. I'm Not Your Negro.
3. Amend: The Fight for America. Netflix, 2021.  
Will Smith hosts this look at the evolving, often lethal, fight for equal rights in America through the lens of the US Constitution's 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.
4. The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song. Netflix, 2021.  
The two part documentary explores the roots of African American religion and how the Black Church expanded its reach to address social inequality and the civil rights movement.
5. When They See Us Now. Netflix, 2019.  
  
In the Spring of 1989, five boys of color are arrested, interrogated and coerced into confessing to the vicious attack of a woman in Central Park. These boys are exonerated several years later.
6. Oprah Winfrey Presents: When They See Us Now. Netflix, 2019.  
  
Oprah Winfrey talks with the exonerated men once known as the Central Park Five, plus the cast and producers who tell their story in "When They See Us."