



ROOTS DEEPER THAN

WHITENESS



*curriculum developed
by White Awake

Facilitator Introductions:

- Debra Baker, Member of SJP, retired campus minister and hospice chaplain, attend First Pres, Monterey.
- **Samantha Evans, Pastor of Stone Church at Willow Glen in San Jose.**
- Bryan Franzen, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in San Jose.
- Meredith Hurley, Chair of the Peace and Justice Working Group of San Jose Presbytery.
- **Nicholas** Hurley, Seminarian at SFTS and ordained elder at Stone Church.
- Collette Lynner, Office Manager at San Jose Presbytery and ordained elder at PCLG.
- Katheryn McGinnis, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Santa Cruz.

Tentative Structure for each Session:

- Spiritual Reflection/Prayer
- Content Material from the “Roots Deeper than Whiteness Course,” by *White Awake*
- Discussion in Breakout Rooms
- Benediction/Closing Prayer

Objectives of the Course:

- Partner with *White Awake* to provide history on the origins of whiteness.
- Provide a brave space to explore beyond the narrative of white privilege.
- Provide spiritual/emotional support to our white siblings in an all-white brave space.
- Utilize the Season of Lent as an entry point for deeper conversations.
- Allow space to be, to grieve, to question, and to begin to digest how white supremacy dehumanizes white people.
- Create imaginable space for self and community as white that is fully aligned according to the second commandment, beginning the journey of self-love for those who hold a white Identity.

Ground Rules for Discussion:

- Treat all participants and facilitators with courtesy and respect. Be respectful of everyone's privacy, and use discretion if you share anecdotes, reflections, or experiences voiced by other course participants outside of this class setting.
- Share from your personal experiences and do your best to honor the experience and wisdom that others bring. Work to suspend judgment and bring curiosity instead.
- Refrain from offering unsolicited advice or criticism.
- Respect time limitations when sharing and do your best to ensure that everyone who wants to speak has time to do so. Thoughtfully and heartfully do the work of this course and stay on topic during discussions.

Introduction of our “Speaker”

- Jacqueline Battalora Ph.D., is an engaging speaker who addresses the complexities of what it means to be white within a nation that imposed whiteness as a matter of founding law. She is the author of *Birth of a White Nation: The Invention of White People and Its Relevance Today*, an attorney and professor of sociology at Saint Xavier University, Chicago, and a former Chicago Police Officer.

Discussion in Breakout Rooms

- In your small groups, begin to build a “brave space”, by each of you introducing yourselves and sharing briefly some of your life story (dividing the allotted time equally). Think back to when you were young and describe one of the first times you realized you were white. Where has life taken you in the conversation about race, and what has brought you to this moment to sign-up for this course? What do you hope to gain from our time together?
- In the last 5 minutes, choose a time to meet and someone please volunteer from your group who will coordinate your get together before our next session.

Preparing for Our Next Session:

- Next session date/time: March 7, 4:00 to 5:30 pm.
- Homework assignments and discussions questions for cohorts will be posted on the Participants Page—the link was emailed to you after registration.
- Remember to meet with your cohort before the next large group meeting.
- Reach out to the facilitators if you have questions before we meet again. Our email addresses will be posted or sent to you.

Rend Your Heart, A Blessing for Ash Wednesday

by Jan Richardson

To receive this blessing,
All you have to do
Is let your heart break.
Let it crack open.
Let it fall apart
So that you can see
Its secret chambers,
The hidden spaces
Where you have hesitated
To go.

Your entire life
Is here, inscribed whole
Upon your heart's walls:
Every path taken
Or left behind,
Every face you turned
toward
Or turned away,
Every word spoken in love
Or in rage,

Every line of your life
You would prefer to leave
In shadow,
Every story that shimmers
With treasures known
And those you have yet
To find.

It could take you days
To wander these rooms.
Forty, at least.

And so let this be
A season for wandering,
For trusting the breaking,
For tracing the rupture
That will return you

To the One who waits,
Who watches,
Who works within
The rending
To make your heart
whole.