

Welcome to St. John's UMC class

How to be an Anti-Racist

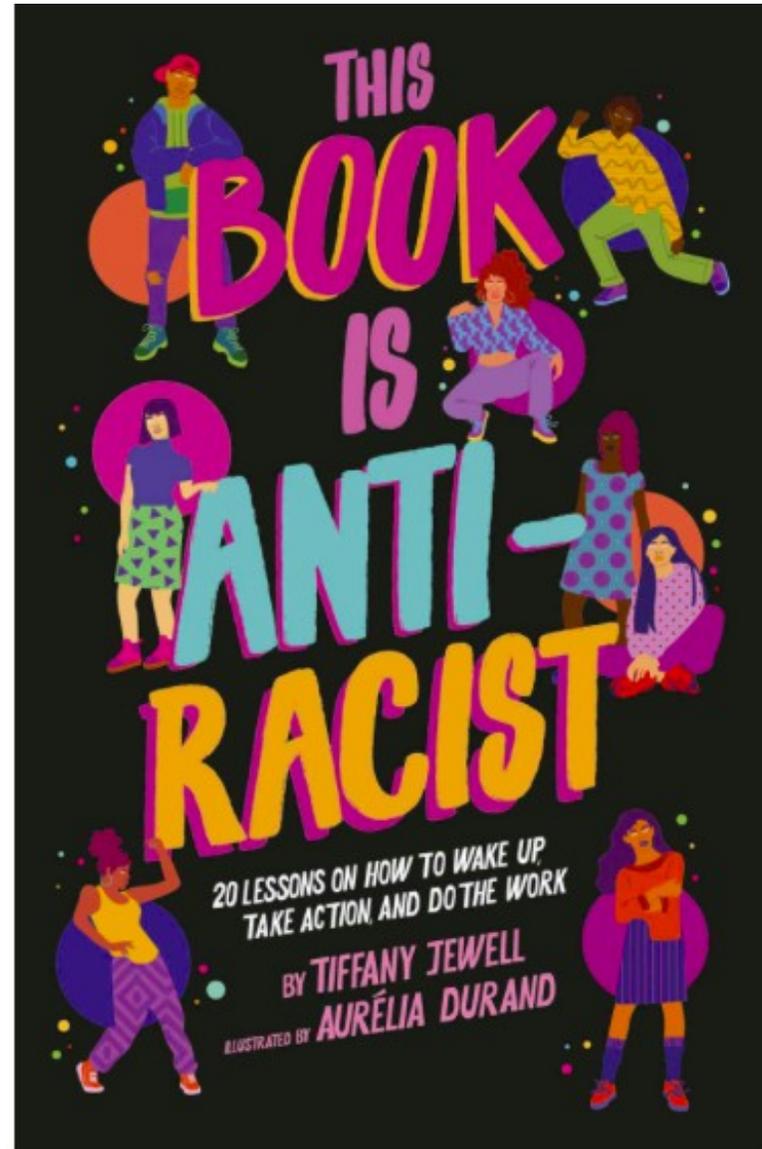
Hosted by,
Cynthia Rector and Barbara Cooper

Get a piece of paper and either a pen or pencil – for this lesson you will need it.



The lessons of the next four weeks will come primarily from:

This Book Is Anti-Racist, by Tiffany Jewell



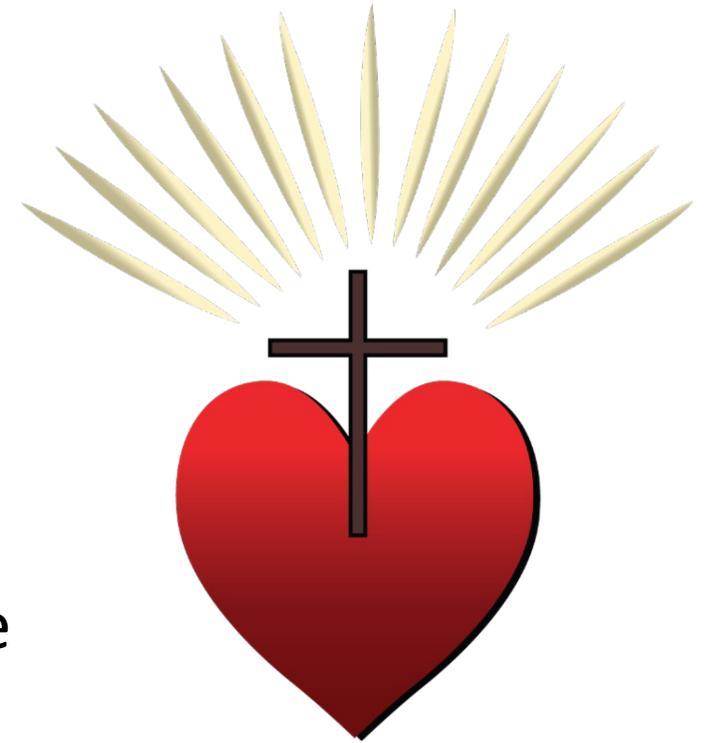
Becoming Anti-racist

Jesus tells us to ... “love your neighbor as yourself.”

We ask ourselves, “As Christians, how should we respond to the hate and violence that has become all too common in our society? How are we to love those who hate so vehemently?”

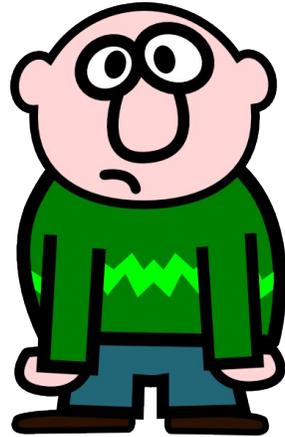
If Jesus was with us today, what would his advice be?

Let’s begin to explore this together.



*Now you will need that paper and pen or pencil.....
Use the next 3 minutes to write down as many words or
phrases as come to mind to describe how you see yourself
and how others see you.*

“Who are you?”



Examples: I am...

- Jim's wife
- David's mother
- a short, older woman
- caring
- opinionated
- a singer

Now that we have a better idea of how others see us, let's consider how we relate to others --- particularly others who are different.

Let's get our pencils and paper out again and write our "working definitions" of a few terms.

You should not refer to the internet or a dictionary for these – just write what comes to mind when you hear these phrases.

We will discuss our various definitions afterwards.

1. prejudice

2. dominant culture

3. subordinate culture

4. white privilege

5. antiracism

1. prejudice
2. dominant culture
3. subordinate culture

4. white privilege
5. anti-racism

Prejudice: preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience-- e.g. "prejudice against people from different backgrounds" From *Webster's Dictionary*

Dominant Culture: the group of people in society that hold the most power and are often, (but not always) the majority.

In the US this is the white middle class, able-bodied, male, and gender you are born with, and Christian. These people are in charge of institutions, and have established the values, traditions, and behaviors that are considered the

"norm." From *This Book is Antiracist*, by Tiffany Jewell

Subordinate Culture: those not in the dominant group:
black, brown, indigenous, people of color, female, non-
educated, poor, disabled, elderly, transgender or
nonbinary gender, not Christian. From *This Book is Antiracist*, by
Tiffany Jewell

White privilege: the societal privilege that benefits white people over non-white people in some societies, particularly if they are otherwise under the same social, political, or economic circumstances. From *Wikipedia*

Anti-Racism: Actively working against racism. To work against racism, we need to understand our part and our privilege in the dominant culture. This work is to resist unjust laws, policies, and attitudes. It is through understanding and changing these ideas and actions that we can be free of the hundreds of years of living in a racist society that keeps all of us separate and oppressed. From *This Book is Antiracist*, by Tiffany Jewell

We know that Jesus said to love your neighbor, but we also know clarification from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians about neighbors who are different from us.

1st Corinthians 12:12-14 (NIV)

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by^[c] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

In the next lesson we will continue to discuss ways of dealing with the challenges of racism, and how our personal histories have impacted our attitudes.

Let us pray

Dear Lord, help us to understand who we are and how our identities have shaped our understandings of the complex issues confronting us today. Help us to love our neighbors, and to understand and appreciate the differences we have.