

# WHY BLACK LIVES MATTER

GEORGE FLOYD, RACIALIZED VIOLENCE,  
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

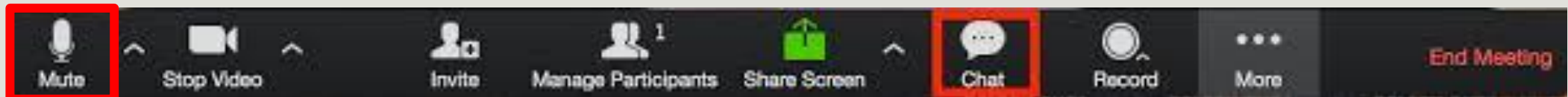
JUNE 11, 2020



# Zoom Best Practices

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- Check your environment: doors, dogs, dirty clothes, televisions, other people, etc.
- Mute yourself when you're not talking.
- Use the chat for questions that come up while someone else is talking.



# Vision

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This three part series offers a space for those of us who benefit from white privilege to

- 1) learn about systemic racism
- 2) examine our own roles and power in perpetuating it
- 3) personally and concretely engage in the work of justice.



# Tonight's Agenda

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1. Self-location and ground rules
2. Recap
3. Breakout sessions
4. Discussion: Racialized Violence and Criminal Justice Reform
5. Looking ahead
6. Closing prayer



# Where Am I?

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- A. I see the reality of structural racism around me and already am engaging in the work of justice.
- B. I see the reality of structural racism around me but I'm not what to do about it.
- C. I'm not sure I understand what structural racism is, but I see that something's wrong and I'm open to learning more.
- D. I don't think there is such a thing as structural racism, but I see that something's wrong and I'm open to learning more.
- E. I don't think there is such a thing as structural racism, and I'm here to argue with those who do.





# Ground Rules for Creating a Climate of Repair

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- **Respect** – We agree to listen respectfully to each other without interruptions.
- **No blame** - We agree not to blame ourselves or others for the misinformation we have learned
- **Share the air** – We accept responsibility for making sure we hear all voices.
- **Ouch / oops** – When something said is harmful, hurtful, or offensive, use “ouch” to pause the conversation. Use “oops” to ask for a chance to try again.
- **Safe space** -- What’s said here stays here; what’s learned here leaves here



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# How do I contribute?

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Speak from your experiences, ask the group illuminating questions, share relevant information, and determine your next step.

Ask the group illuminating questions, share relevant information, and determine your first steps toward engagement.

Listen carefully, pay attention to your own reactions to what you hear, ask questions for clarification, and look for what is missing.

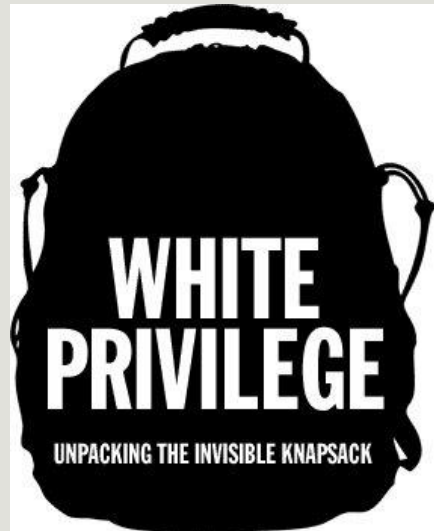
Listen carefully, pay attention to your own reactions to what you hear, ask questions for clarification, and look for what is missing.

Cultivate silence and listen carefully, or set up a separate meeting with a trusted conversation partner and postpone this kind of engagement until later.

# Recap

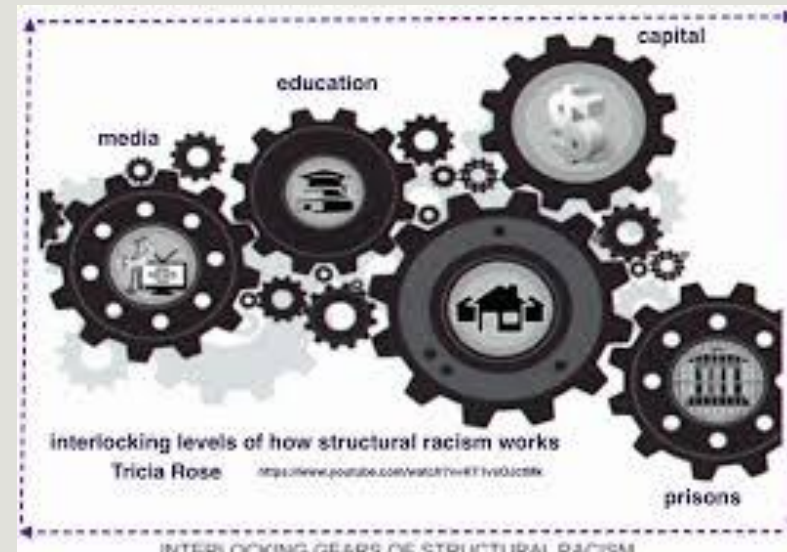
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## WHITE PRIVILEGE



The advantages that white persons enjoy over non-white persons.

## STRUCTURAL RACISM



The material, economic, legal, political, social, and cultural conditions that justify and protect white privilege.



# Anti-Racism: Moving Beyond Personal Bias

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# Anti-Racism: Moving Beyond Personal Bias

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# Breakout Session

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Go around three times, responding to the following:

## First Time Around

Share your name and how you're doing, generally speaking.

## Second Time Around

Last week we talked about making the shift from viewing racism as interpersonal to viewing racism as structural. Has this changed how you've viewed the events of the past weeks? What questions still remain for you?

## Third Time Around

How do you think our society should handle the problem of police violence against Black, Indigenous, and People of Color?



## **Man Dies After Medical Incident During Police Interaction**

May 25, 2020 (MINNEAPOLIS) On Monday evening, shortly after 8:00 pm, officers from the Minneapolis Police Department responded to the 3700 block of Chicago Avenue South on a report of a forgery in progress. Officers were advised that the suspect was sitting on top of a blue car and appeared to be under the influence.

Two officers arrived and located the suspect, a male believed to be in his 40s, in his car. He was ordered to step from his car. After he got out, he physically resisted officers. Officers were able to get the suspect into handcuffs and noted he appeared to be suffering medical distress. Officers called for an ambulance. He was transported to Hennepin County Medical Center by ambulance where he died a short time later.

At no time were weapons of any type used by anyone involved in this incident.

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension has been called in to investigate this incident at the request of the Minneapolis Police Department.

No officers were injured in the incident.

Body worn cameras were on and activated during this incident.

# I Can't Breathe

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# From Individual to Structural Racism

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- Why did the police officer pull his weapon on Floyd?
- Why did they need two additional officers?
- Why were officers with multiple conduct complaints issued against them permitted to assist?
- Why did Derek Chauvin put his knee against Floyd's neck?
- Why did the other three officers allow this to happen?
- Why did no bystanders intervene when it was clear that Floyd was in distress?
- Why were the officers only fired at first?
- Why did it require days of protest for the city government to arrest and charge Derek Chauvin?
- Why did it require several additional days of protest for the city government to arrest and charge the remaining police officers?



# Policing In America

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## In the South...

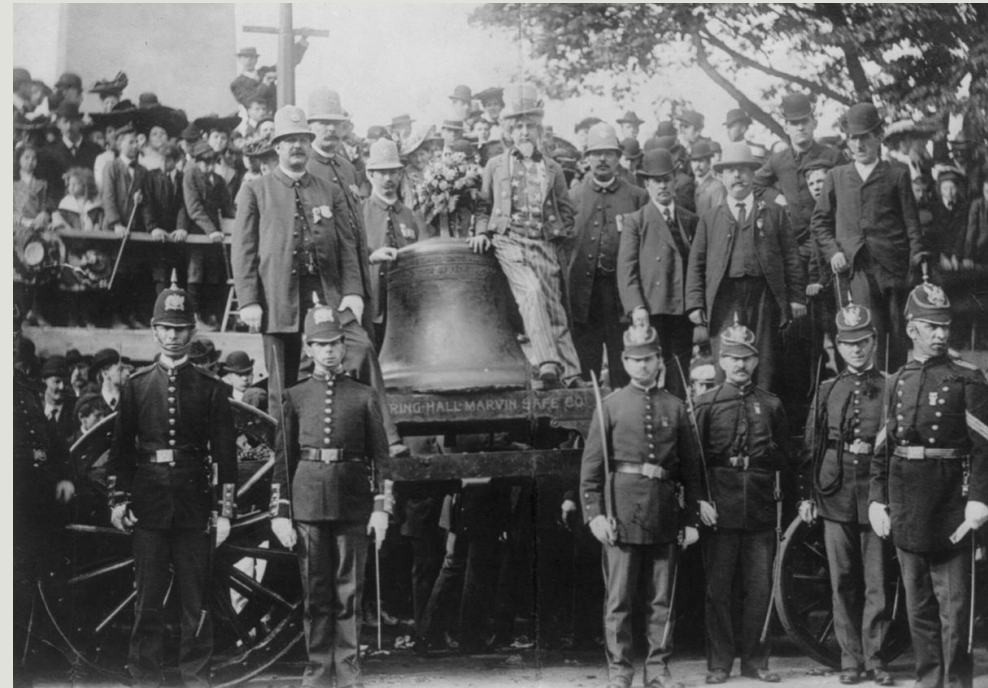
- Originated as slave patrols created to track down and return runaway slaves
- During Reconstruction, shifted to enforcing segregation and legitimizing mob lynching

# Policing In America

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## In the North...

- Created to protect mercantile property and keep order among the “dangerous classes:” increasing numbers of disreputable and poor working immigrants from Italy, Ireland, Poland, Germany, and Eastern Europe
- Widely organized and operated according to political parties and their geographic wards
- Focused on strike-breaking and other anti-labor activity



# Policing in America Today

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- 88% of NYC police stops in 2018 involved Black and Latino people, while 10% involved white people. (Of those stops, 70% were completely innocent.)
- Black people make up 19% of the Minneapolis population, 9% of its police, and 58% of those involved in police use-of-force incidents.
- Black men are 2.5 times more likely than white men to be killed by police.
- Black people are disproportionately more likely than whites to be pulled and searched, even though whites are more likely to possess contraband. This likelihood decreases at night.
- Studies of footage captured by police officer body cameras shows that officers speak with consistently less respect toward black versus white community members, even after controlling for the race of the officer, the severity of the infraction, the location of the stop, and the outcome of the stop.
- Police departments are not required to report civilian shootings. There is no national record of civilians killed by police and corrections officers in the United States.
- Qualified immunity protects police officers from misconduct lawsuits. When lawsuits do occur, these are paid out by tax dollars.



# Where Are We Going?

## Session 3: Protests, Engagement, and the Catholic Church



# For Next Week

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## Articles and Podcasts

[Driving While Black: A Report on Racial Profiling in Metro Nashville Police Department Traffic Stops](#)

[There's Overwhelming Evidence that the Criminal Justice System is Racist](#)

[How to Actually Fix America's Police](#)

[Worship of a False God: An Interview with Bryan Massingale](#)

[Throughline \(NPR\), "Policing in America" podcast](#)

## Movies to watch

*Just Mercy*, a film based on civil rights lawyer Bryan Stevenson's work on death row in Alabama (Streaming free on [Redbox](#))

## Actions to take

Talk to another white friend or family member about structural racism

Stop buying from companies that use prison labor. Be vocal about why. [Here's a list](#).

[Donate to the Nashville Community Bail Fund](#).

<https://ctk.org/why-black-lives-matter>



# Engagement Poll:

## How do you want to be involved?

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- **Learn:** I want additional opportunities to learn about racism.
- **Teach:** I want to help create and present in opportunities for folks to learn about racism.
- **Volunteer:** I want to volunteer with a group that meets regularly to engage in anti-racist work.
- **Lead:** I want to help lead/facilitate a group that meets regularly to engage in anti-racist work.
- **Plan:** I want to be involved in articulating and promoting Christ the King's vision for racial justice.
- **Donate:** I want to contribute financially to anti-racist efforts and needs.



# Psalm 74

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**R. Remember your people, Lord.**

Why, God, have you cast us off forever?  
Why does your anger burn against the sheep of your pasture?  
Remember your people, whom you acquired of old,  
the tribe you redeemed as your own heritage,  
Mount Zion where you dwell.

**R. Remember your people, Lord.**

Direct your steps toward the utter destruction,  
everything the enemy laid waste in the sanctuary.  
Your foes roared triumphantly in the place of your assembly;  
they set up their own tokens of victory.

**R. Remember your people, Lord.**

# Psalm 74

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They said in their hearts, “We will destroy them all!  
Burn all the assembly-places of God in the land!”

\*Even so we have seen no signs for us,  
there is no prophet any more,  
no one among us who knows for how long.

**R. Remember your people, Lord.**

How long, O God, will the enemy jeer?  
Will the enemy revile your name forever?  
Why draw back your hand,  
why hold back your right hand within your bosom?

**R. Remember your people, Lord.**