



A Conversation about Race

Following the brutal killing of George Floyd on a Minneapolis street on Monday 25 May 2020, many in our own community as well as around the world have connected with deep pain and anger about the ongoing systemic racism that still exists today. George Floyd's death has highlighted the necessity for an open and honest conversation about race both in our city and our church. On Sunday 7 June, John and Debby Wright had a [conversation about race](#) with three black members of our church family, Dan, Caroline and Dave with the desire to grow in our understanding as a church.

On Monday 8 June, many of us lit candles in our homes as a symbol of grief and of hope and also as a pledge to examine our own hearts, to listen, to love our neighbours and to speak out against injustice where we see it trentv.org/georgefloyd. We committed ourselves to continue the conversation long after this story disappears from the headlines. This continuing invitation includes an invitation for each of us to lament as we reflect on the prejudice within our own hearts and the impact of racism on our black and brown brothers and sisters.

On Sunday 12 July, John Wright, in his talk [‘we need to talk about race’](#), spoke to us about some of the reality of racism and then went on to talk about the opportunity before us as a church community reflecting on:

1. *Racism and racial injustice are part of our history.*
2. *Racism and racial injustice are part of our present.*
3. *Many of our black and brown brothers and sisters are in pain.*
4. *We want to be part of the solution.*
5. *We have an opportunity for real change.*

“As a leadership team we sense that this is a transformational season, where the Lord is drawing us to engage with Him emotionally and spiritually. We are keen that busyness and striving to re-engage do not crowd out the present opportunity for us as a church to hear from, and be shaped by, God. We feel led to take time to process and lament difficult issues that have emerged during lockdown, particularly the issue of racial injustice. The Lord is stirring a vision that we must seek a future for our church where ‘every nation, tribe, people and language belong and flourish’ (Revelation 7:9)”

John & Debby Wright
July 2020

This is an opportunity for change but this change is not a given - but it can happen if each of us commits to change - and the start of this change is a commitment to reflect, to listen and to lament. Our prayer is also that, in this season, those in our community who are hurting from the experience, impact and legacy of racism would receive healing and that we be a community where God's true reconciliation is lived out amongst us.

“As tragic as these last few weeks have been. As difficult, scary and uncertain as they've been, they have been an incredible opportunity for people to be awakened to some of these underlying trends. And they offer an opportunity for us all to work together to tackle them, to take them on, to change.”

Barack Obama
Following the death of George Floyd



Resources

We have put together this resource which we hope will help each of us on this journey of reflection, lament and healing. This begins with our hearts. So, as well as some of videos and books we have recommended, alongside the devotionals around lament, you may also find it helpful to engage with some of the spiritual practice resources we've made available here trentv.org/spiritualpractices. Together, let's be captured by that vision of a church where "every nation, tribe, people and language" belong and flourish (Revelation 7:9).

Lament Devotionals

Five days of devotionals around the topic of Lament from Bridgetown Church Daily. This [interview with Dave Lomas and Rich Villodas](#) is a valuable prelude to the series.

[Day One: Lament, pt. 1](#) by Dave Lomas

[Day Two: Lament, pt. 2](#) by Dave Lomas

[Day Three: Psalm 10 & Prayers of the People](#) by John Mark Comer, Matthew Zigenis

[Day Four: When the Tears Fall](#)
Guest Post by Tim Hughes

[Day Five: Rest & Lament](#) by Bethany Allen

Videos for Reflection on Race, Justice & God's Invitation

[We need to talk about Race: Black experience in white majority churches](#) by Ben Lindsay, Guvna B, Rosemarie Mallet & Chinne McDonald (1hr 30)

[De-constructing White Privilege](#) by Dr Robin D'Angelo (20 mins)

[The Necessity of Lament](#) by Soong-Chan Rah (40mins)

[The Changing Face of Christianity](#) by Soong-Chan Rah (47mins)

[We need to talk about Race](#) at Vineyard DTI with Ben Lindsay and Zeke Rink (1hr)

[God's Heart for Justice](#) by Trent Vineyard on Sunday 2 June 2019 with John Bernard-Carlin (30mins)

[Grace, Justice and Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson & Tim Keller (51 mins)

Recommended Reading

We need to Talk about Race by Ben Lindsay

Crossing the Divide by Owen Hylton

Brit(ish): on Race, Identity and Belonging by Afua Hirsch

Why I'm No Longer Speaking to White People about Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge

Black and British: A Forgotten History by David Olusoga

Prophetic Lament – A Call for Justice in Troubled Times by Soong-Chan Rah

The Justice God is Seeking by David Ruis

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

Videos for Understanding History

[Black and British Series: A Forgotten History \(1 - 4\)](#) with David Olusoga

[Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners \(Part 1 & 2\)](#) with David Olusoga

[Sitting in Limbo](#) a BBC Drama inspired by the Windrush Scandal

[The Unwanted: The Secret Windrush Files](#) with David Olusoga

[Why is Covid killing people of colour?](#) A BBC documentary with David Harewood