

Gathering for White Privilege

Words of the Day

I experience white privilege when I ...

Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice to shine on our time together. In its light we celebrate the relationships and understanding we are creating in this place and time. May our sharing be deep. (Light chalice)

The Basket

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silence, holding ourselves and each other in silent support

Shared Readings

For some white people, the words “white privilege” elicit an uneasy feeling because, for them, the term is accusatory without being specific. White privilege *does not* mean that any white person who achieved anything didn’t work hard for it. It is an irrefutable, concrete phenomenon that manifests itself in real, measurable values, and we should use it as such. *Michael Harriot*

[White privilege] I think is a word that we have created to make white people comfortable – while we talk about racism, and white supremacy, which is much more uncomfortable for folks because it names things and it’s very, very direct. *Ta-Nehisi Coates*

White people’s lack of consciousness about their racial identities has grave consequences in that it not only denies white people the experience of seeing themselves as benefiting from racism, but in doing so, frees them from taking responsibility for eradicating it. *Alice McIntyre*

There is a strange kind of enigma associated with the problem of racism. No one, or almost no one, wishes to see themselves as racist; still, racism persists, real and tenacious. *Albert Memmi, Racism*

A part of us likes having white power and privilege ... Consciously or unconsciously we accept this special treatment. I know there is a part of me that does. There is a part of us that loves our white power and privilege. Otherwise there would be a lot more effort to end it. *Tim Wise*

In short, white people can continue to use unearned privilege to remain ignorant, or we can determine to put aside our opacities in order to see clearly and live differently. *Frances E. Kendall*

But we who are white don’t have to think about being white. By not thinking about it, we also do not have to think about the issue of racism and the benefits it gives to us as white people. Racism is designed to work without our thinking about it. *Joseph R. Barndt*

We have only begun to know
the power that is in us if we would join
our solitudes in the communion of the struggle.
Denise Levertov

What I ask my white students to do, and what I ask of you, my dear friends, is to try, the best you can, to surrender your innocence, to reject the willful denial of history, and to live fully in our complicated present with all of the discomfort it brings. *Michael Eric Dyson*

Sharing Activity

The Walk. The facilitator will guide everyone in an activity about privilege.

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

Round 1: Share your reflections on white privilege and the preparation materials.

Round 2: Share additional thoughts or reflect on what others have shared.

Closing Circle

Extinguishing the Chalice

We extinguish this flame and we remember the warmth of our community, the light of our wisdom, the generosity of our sharing. We keep these in our heart until we meet again.
(Extinguish the chalice.)

Song/Chime

Announcements

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group
- to let the facilitator know if I will be absent or need to quit
- to share with the facilitator the responsibility for good group process by watching how much time I take to speak and noticing what is going on for others
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, giving advice, or advocating a specific view
- to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn and to stay on the “I-message.”