

Sacred Ground

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>

This is a race dialogue series designed for these times. It is an attempt to be responsive to the profound challenges that currently exist in our society. It is focused on the challenges that swirl around issues of race and racism, as well as the difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue we need to have with each other about them. It invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, and to do so in a personal way, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story. It holds the vision of beloved community as a guiding star – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another’s pain and seek one another’s flourishing.

By way of overview, here are some key characteristics of the Sacred Ground Dialogue Series:

- It is built around powerful documentary films and readings, which we are pleased to bring you and which will serve as the jumping-off point for dialogue.
- It focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories.
- It emphasizes personal story-sharing and deepening relationships.
- It strongly encourages people to constitute dialogue groups with socioeconomic and political diversity, which may involve partnering with another congregation (Episcopal or other).
- This series, framed as a spiritual journey, is grounded in the Christian faith – in the example of Jesus Christ and the power of scripture, prayer, God’s grace, and the Holy Spirit to help us step closer to the dream of beloved community.

The class is open who are interested but there is a limit of 15 per class.

First session for white participants is 3/14/21 (Sundays) starting at 4:30 pm central time

First session for people of color is 3/15/21 (Mondays) starting at 6 pm central time

The sessions are 1-2 hours long and there are 10 sessions total.

We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Erin Kirby from St John’s Episcopal Marion, North Carolina for leading us.