

Race, Trauma, and the Doctrine of Discovery

Discussion of the presentation by Mark Charles, "Race, Trauma and the Doctrine of Discovery," which is available on YouTube at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYZ2rj2Jooc>.

Goal for Class

The goal of this class is to understand the Doctrine of Discovery and its tragic repercussions for the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

Questions for Discussion

- As Mark Charles asked his listeners to do, what is a one word response that you had after watching the video and learning about the genocide, ethnic cleansing, and the displacement of the Indigenous which was perpetrated by the US Government?
- How is racism against Native Americans different from racism targeting African Americans, Latinx, Asians, or other groups?
- In what way can we begin to create a common memory of United States history so that we can work toward racial conciliation?
- How can we best listen and acknowledge the trauma of racism individually and as a church?

Action Item

The Santa Fe Indian Center is asking for donations for care bundles they distribute each month. They serve more than 700 Native families and individuals and especially need donations for babies, young children, and seniors.

Among the items the center needs: products associated with personal hygiene (liquid soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.), baby food and formula, diapers, snacks, juice, hand sanitizer, diabetic socks and cleaning products.

To schedule a donation drop-off, call the Indian Center office at 505-660-4210. The center also is looking for volunteers. For information, email sfindiancenter@gmail.com.

Opening Prayer

Creator God, we pause in prayer to recognize the sacredness of this vast land we call home. We acknowledge where we are and give thanks to the living mountains, valleys and waters which sustain our lives.

We reflect on all of the people who have walked these lands, we especially think of the Puebloan peoples who have built cities up and down the Rio Grande Valley and across the state. We think of those who did not settle in one place, but roamed across these lands, celebrating their great gifts—the Navajo, the Comanche, and the Apache. We think of generations of settlers from different regions and places that have found a home here. We acknowledge the ways in which our brokenness has led to conflicts between all of these peoples and violent abuses from generation to generation that have threatened the livelihood, traditions and very lives of those that came before. We pray that you will put a new heart into all of us that we are filled with compassion as we continue to interact with each other on this land we call sacred. We pray that as we reflect on the generations of the past that have called this home, we are filled with a renewed sense of your Spirit's peace so that by our actions the generations of the future will know of your great desire for all peoples to share your love with one another as we continue to learn how to walk together. We pray these things in the name of your great Spirit that we understand as embodied in the great Three in One, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. AMEN.

-Seth Finch, Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque

Additional Resources

We encourage you also to view one of the following videos to learn more about the history of Indian boarding schools in the country.

- "Unspoken: America's Native American Boarding Schools"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yo1bYj-R7FO>
- "The Wellbriety Journey to Forgiveness"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZwF9NnQbWM>

If you are interested in additional resources, the Santa Fe Presbytery has this list that can be downloaded. [DOD Resource List - April 2019.pdf](#)