

## An Anti-Racism Advent Calendar

Our Baptismal Covenant leads us to condemn racism in all forms, and stand against all that perpetuates unjust systems and undermine the creation of a civil, just and peaceful society. It calls us to embrace our siblings of all races, creeds, and origins as members of the human family of God, all whose dignity is to be respected and all who are integral parts of the creation of a civil, just and peaceful society. In the heart of Christ there is room for all and we, too, must work to create this same loving space in our homes, parish, community and world.

Advent's preparation for the first and second coming of Christ, is a fitting time to do this work.

This calendar can be used by all ages, including youth and children working alongside adults. When using this calendar with children, you may want to have paper and crayons or markers to help the children visualize some of the more complex concepts. It can be used with a home Advent wreath or with a simple candle, lit to signify that you are setting time aside to pay attention to the work of this Advent Calendar. It is made in "placemat" style to keep on the table for easy access. However you use it, may you be blessed in your endeavor of anti-racism.

December 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Who is the kindest person you know who isn't a family member? What is it that makes them kind? How could you be more like them?	<b>2</b> Look up Sojourner Truth. Write down what she did. Could you be like her?	<b>3</b> Jesus said, "only do to others what you want them to do to you." What would Jesus say about bullying and teasing people because of the way they look or talk?	<b>4</b> Sit quietly for five minutes, and pray for all the people you don't like.	<b>5</b> Do a random act of kindness for someone. Was it easy or hard?	<b>6</b> Today is St. Nicholas Day. Go to <a href="http://stnicholascenter.org">stnicholascenter.org</a> and choose an activity. What did you learn?	<b>7</b> What have you discovered about yourself this week? What was fun/ What was hard? Did you do anything for the first time? Give thanks to Jesus for all of it!
<b>8</b> Watch the Youtube Video: Race: The Power of Illusion <a href="https://youtu.be/Y8MS6zublaQ">https://youtu.be/Y8MS6zublaQ</a>  One definition of racism is: "prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior." Ask God to show you how you have believed or behaved in racist ways. Confess this and ask for God's forgiveness. Ask God to help you see racism in yourself and to change you.	<b>9</b> Social and Institutional Power is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>access to resources</li> <li>the ability to influence others</li> <li>access to decision-makers to get what you want done</li> <li>the ability to define reality for yourself and others</li> </ul> Think about examples in your community of these kinds of power. Who in your community has and does not have this kind of power? What does your understanding of Jesus tell you about power?	<b>10</b> Poet Howard Thurman tells about the movement of God's Spirit in peoples' hearts which calls them to act against the spirit of their times or causes them to anticipate a spirit which is yet in the making.  Write a short prayer asking God to show you how you can be an anti-racist and act against racism in the places you go. Carry the prayer with you this week.	<b>11</b> " Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing " is often called the black national anthem, Originally a poem by James Weldon Johnson, it was later set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson in 1899. Artists like Beyonce and James Moran as well as numerous church choirs offer renditions of this work.  Look up and listen to a recording or watch a Youtube video of Lift Every Voice and Sing. Let the song be your worship as you open your heart for God to speak to you. Be brave in living into what God is calling you to do.	<b>12</b> Pay attention to the people you encounter today in person or in media. Notice how you are the same and how you are different. Think about each person as loved by God. Without judgement, pray a blessing for them. (A blessing is a prayer asking God's love, grace, goodness and will for another person.)	<b>13</b> "Send them into the world in witness to your love." – Book of Common Prayer, page 306  Spend some time today researching anti-racism initiatives in your community. Notice where they are located and how they are accessed. Pick one initiative to learn more about. Pick two events or activities that you can attend in the coming year.	<b>14</b> In the busyness of these days, take "Sabbath moments".  Set a timer for 5 -10 minutes and make a gratitude list.  If you missed a day on the Advent Calendar this week, go back and catch up on what you missed.  Rest in the knowledge of God's love for you and the whole world and God's reconciling work in the world.  Breathe deeply and know that God is God.

