# How Did We Get Here?
# Lenten Book / Podcast Study.
# The Reverends Cindy Dopp, Joe Hubbard, and Michele H. Morgan
# Choose one of the three options below
# Wednesday 7 pm to 8 pm February 24th to March 24 on Zoom

## Option 1 Stand Your Ground by The Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas led by The Reverend Joe Hubbard.

Joe will be leading a book study of Kelly Brown Douglas' provocative exploration of the relationship between the myth of American exceptionalism, Manifest Destiny, and Christian theology in Stand Your Ground. We will read a chapter a week and discuss, in conversation with Douglas, the church's role in objectifying bodies of color. By the end, we will turn to a conversation around the church's responsibility for redeeming these dangerous myths and will consider our invitation to point to the voice of God in the midst of a "Stand Your Ground" culture of violence and destruction.
https://bookshop.org/books/stand-your-ground-black-bodies-and-the-justice-of-god/9781626981096

## Option 2 Wintering - The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times Katherine May
## led by The Reverend Cindy Dopp

We live in a time of great needs...and, as Christians, we are called to respond. COVID has brought stresses and challenges that we would never have imagined – for others and ourselves. How do we respond? The St Mark's community has traditionally been active in social activism, advocacy for the marginalized, racial justice, and more. How do we move forward in our work to love others?

This book study is meant to help us remember that in our ministry efforts to help effect change for a better world, we must also acknowledge the need for our own rest and retreat during difficult times. Compassion for others also calls for self-compassion.
COVID has been a season of wintering. May's book offers instruction on the transformative power of rest and retreat during 'fallow' times. She invites us to change how we relate to challenging life circumstances.

Rather than resisting and seeking to overcome, we can instead acknowledge times of wintering and learn from them. I believe we grow from attending to our difficult times. Rest and renewal from wintering better enable us to go out into the world to minister to others effectively.
We will read two chapters every week.
https://bookshop.org/books/wintering-the-power-of-rest-and-retreat-in-difficult-times/9780593189481
Questions: contact Cindy Dopp - cindy@stmarks.net.

## Option 3 The Dangers of Christian Nationalism a podcast.
## led by The Reverend Michele H. Morgan

A conversation based on a Baptist Joint Committee 10 episode Podcast on the dangers of Christian nationalism. The episodes are a half-hour in length, and you would have to listen to 2 or 3 over the course of the week to join in on the conversation.