

Black History Month Reading List

Love Mercy Do Justice, The Evangelical Covenant Church

February is Black History Month; a time to learn, celebrate, and pay tribute to the generations of Black Americans who have struggled, and continue to struggle, sacrifice, and give their lives to make our nation a more just and equitable place for all. This month also provides us with an opportunity to begin practicing “the 6th P” of the 6-Fold test—*Practicing Solidarity*. Practicing Solidarity asks us to consider two fundamental questions:

- In what ways are we standing with and advocating for the Multiethnic Mosaic?
- How are we sharing in the suffering of others on both an individual and communal level?

We invite you to share this non-comprehensive reading list with your congregations, created by Dominique Gilliard, LMDJ Director of Racial Righteousness and Reconciliation, to learn how we can more faithfully rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.

Black History reading recommendations:

1. *A Knock at Midnight* (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)
2. *Bonhoeffer's Black Jesus* (Reggie Williams)
3. *The Cross & the Lynching Tree* (James Cone)
4. *Roadmap to Reconciliation* (Brenda Salter McNeil)
5. *Rethinking Incarceration* (Dominique DuBois Gilliard)
6. *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race* (Willie Jennings)
7. *The Radical King* (Cornel West)
8. *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Howard Thurman)
9. *Womanist Ethics and the Cultural Production of Evil* (Emilie Townes)
10. *I'm Still Here* (Austin Channing Brown)
11. *Race: A Theological Account* (J Kameron Carter)
12. *The Bridge Called My Back* (anthology)
13. *Church Forsaken* (Jonathan Brooks)
14. *White Women's Christ, Black Women's Jesus* (Jacquelyn Grant)
15. *A Sojourner's Truth: Choosing Freedom and Courage in a Divided World* (Natasha Robinson)
16. *Souls of Black Folk* (W.E.B. DuBois)
17. *Stamped from The Beginning* (Ibram X. Kendi)
18. *The Miseducation of the Negro* (Carter G. Woodson)
19. *Medical Apartheid* (Harriet Washington)
20. *Just Mercy* (Bryan Stephenson)
21. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (Alex Haley)
22. *The Warmth of Other Suns* (Isabel Wilkerson)
23. *I Am Not Your Negro* (James Baldwin)
24. *Between the World & Me* (Ta-Nehisi Coates)
25. *I Bring the Voices of My People: A Womanist Vision for Racial Reconciliation* (Chanequa Walker-Barnes, Author & Scholar)
26. *Becoming* (Michelle Obama)
27. *The Very Good Gospel* (Lisa Sharon Harper)
28. *The Color of Compromise* (Jemar Tisby)
29. *Trouble I've Seen* (Drew Hart)
30. *When and Where I Enter* (Paula Giddings)

Commentary recommendations for preaching and teaching from the Black American experience.

1. *Acts: Belief A Theological Commentary on the Bible* (Willie Jennings)
2. *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse* (Anthology)
3. *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentator* (Brian K. Blount)
4. *Stony the Road We Trod: African American Biblical Interpretation* (Cain Hope Felder)
5. *Introduction to the Practice of African American Preaching* (Frank A. Thomas)

Youth Reading

1. *March*—A comic book trilogy telling the story of the Civil Rights Movement (John Lewis)
2. *Just Mercy*—Adapted for Young Adults (Bryan Stevenson)
3. *The Underground Railroad: A Novel* (Colson Whitehead)
4. *Dear Martin* (Nic Stone)
5. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* (Phillip Hoose)

Children's reading list

1. *Henry's Freedom Box* (Levine Ellen)
2. *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* (Vashti Harrison)
3. *The Little Rock Nine and the Fight for Equal Education* (Gary Jeffrey)
4. *Child of the Civil Rights Movement* (Paula Young Shelton)
5. *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins* (Carole Boston Weatherford)
6. *When God Made You* (Matthew Paul Turner)