



Lenten Deepening Devotional Companion Email #1 **Sunday, March 1, 2026**

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
- Isaiah 58:6*

Why focus on Dismantling White Supremacy as a pathway into deepening our relationship with God this Lent?

White supremacy is a world view and world-creating web of norms, systems and ideas which in its mission of preserving the status quo of the supremacy of whiteness separates humanity from ourselves, one another and God. White supremacy makes whiteness an idol. White supremacy denies the full humanity of God's human creation and desecrates God's beyond-human creation. White supremacy is founded on greed and violence. In all of these ways, White supremacy is a sin.

White and Christian supremacy was a founding logic of the settling of these United States. Humans holding other humans in bondage was the economic basis of these United States. These two core realities continue to live today in a web of interconnecting injustices. We all live inside of a white supremacist system, even if we do not individually subscribe to white supremacy. We are all bound up in this death dealing system.

As I wrote in my Lenten letter, Lent is not about shame. It can be natural to go to a place of shame when we talk about reflecting on sin. But especially when leaning in on a topic as difficult and layered as white supremacy, shame can become an avoidant emotion that keeps us trapped in feeling bad for the way things were and are, rather than an emotion to guide us into clear, honest speech and justice-centered action.

Lent is about purpose. Lent is about learning what keeps us part from our purpose; what keeps us disconnected from God's desired movement through us. It is about then daring to let God lead us in shedding what keeps us apart from our creative purpose. White supremacy keeps us from our purpose.

Sin does not go away unless we recognize it as such, unless we name it, unless we seek God's mercy in changing our ways; unless we seek one another in ways that we have not before as full, complex human beings bearers of wisdom and strength and of

the Divine, recognizing that we share this human journey and deeply need one another along the way.

In looking at how White Supremacy lives in our theologies, in our church practices, in our cities; in our relationships, our education and in our very imaginations this lent we begin to learn the nuances of this sin so that we can be wise in dismantling it.

Invitation

I personally find journaling to be essential to my soul practices. I journal all the time! I find journaling a very helpful to figure out what I am feeling, thinking, longing for. I encourage you to journal through this Lent. There is no one way to approach journaling. This a suggestion:

- Decide what your journal is going to be. Pick a notepad. Make your own from a stack of recycle paper. Name this as your Lenten Deepening Journal. If you're like me, you'll end up writing in lots of other places also, but it is helpful to have a central journal. You can look back at it and notice the evolution of your thinking.
- Whenever you are reading the Dismantle: An Anti-White Supremacy Lenten Devotional have your journal near and take note of concepts that stand out to you, emotions you are feeling, questions you have.
- If you are able to participate in any our our in person Lenten sessions, bring your journal and make note of the same, or when you get home take a few minutes to write your thoughts there.
- Make connections. Sometimes I like a journal that doesn't have lined paper. This allows me to visually write my notes in interesting ways, and all over the page. Sometimes, I scan the pages I've written and doodled on and energizing connections stand out. I draw literal lines between them to help me link ideas, emotions and experiences. You might want to try this. Or, if you are using lined paper, you can occasionally go back and scan your entries and that write down words that stand out. Are there connections between these words?

Contemplative Meditations

What is a force that is stronger than white supremacy?

Where do you notice that you yourself are bound up and by white supremacy?

Imagine God's desire for us.

Imagine if we let God's desire for us become our desire.

These are two brief excerpts from "After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging" by Willie James Jennings that I offer as kernels of creative energy:

“...**only holy desire that forms in us for one another** can break those chains and guide us to a place where we meet each other in ways that announce eternity.”

Desire. A God secretly intoxicated
by dirt and water, breathing it
in and out.

Now, Mary things,
desire will say more to them
than death, and they will know
a way forward.

With love,
Rev. Lindsey