

# Values

## Incompleteness

“For we know only in part, we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.” 1 Cor. 13:9,10

## Bravery

“...for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.” 2 Tim. 1:7

## Honesty

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.” Rom. 8:1,2

## Humility

“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle.” Jas. 3:1,2



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# THE IDOLATRY OF WHITENESS



**SIX SESSION STUDY  
OF THE PROPHETIC VOICE**

**ADMIRAL CONGREGATIONAL**

*United Church of Christ*

# *The Idolatry of Whiteness: a 6-Part Bible Study Series on the Prophetic Voice*

## Objectives

### **Define/Identify Modern Idolatry**

In this Bible Study series, we will focus on the concept of “idolatry” as presented in the writings of the prophets of the Hebrew Bible.

*In particular, we will consider:*

- the role of wealth in establishment
- the intentional re-writing of history
- the de-centering of the transcendent

### **Define/Identify “Whiteness”**

We will draw on modern scholars whose work has been focused on the phenomenology of “whiteness” as a racial/political/moral category of human beings. We will (quite briefly) explore its development, goals, and consequences for those who “pass” as white and those who do not.

*In particular, we will consider:*

- the role of defensiveness
- the power of individualism
- the myth of objectivity

### **Critically Engage Prophetic Calls to Dismantle Both**

We will bravely apply our understandings of these two concepts to our own freedom (or lack thereof) and our obligations to our neighbors

## Structure

**Six sessions, 75 min. each**

**Sundays 9:00-10:15 am**

### **June 30: Establishing the Group**

- Values and Expectations
- Introduction to Idolatry

### **July 7: Idolatry & Materiality**

- The Reality of Wealth
- The Role of Defensiveness

### **July 14: Idolatry & History**

- Re-Writing Our Memory
- Individualism Whitewash

### **July 21: Idolatry & Transcendence**

- De-centering God in Life
- Proclaiming Objectivity

### **July 28: Idolatry & Exile**

- Consequences & Justice
- The Pain of Seeing Anew

### **August 4: Liberation & Renewal**

- The Power of Repentance
- The Need for Relationship

## Expectations

### **\$10 Registration Fee**

This fee covers a light breakfast provided for each session, as well as printed materials.

### **Weekly Reading Assignments**

These will include excerpts from the Hebrew prophets and excerpts from modern prophets on race and whiteness in particular. There will be extension reading material available for students who want to go deeper.

### **Journaling Prompts**

These will help deepen students’ engagement with the readings and prepare them for class. Students will not be required to share their writing.

### **Discussion Participation**

Students will be expected to engage with one another and the facilitator verbally each session. We expect to learn from one another as well as the prophets (our teachers). We will hold one another accountable to the values which guide this series (listed on the reverse).