

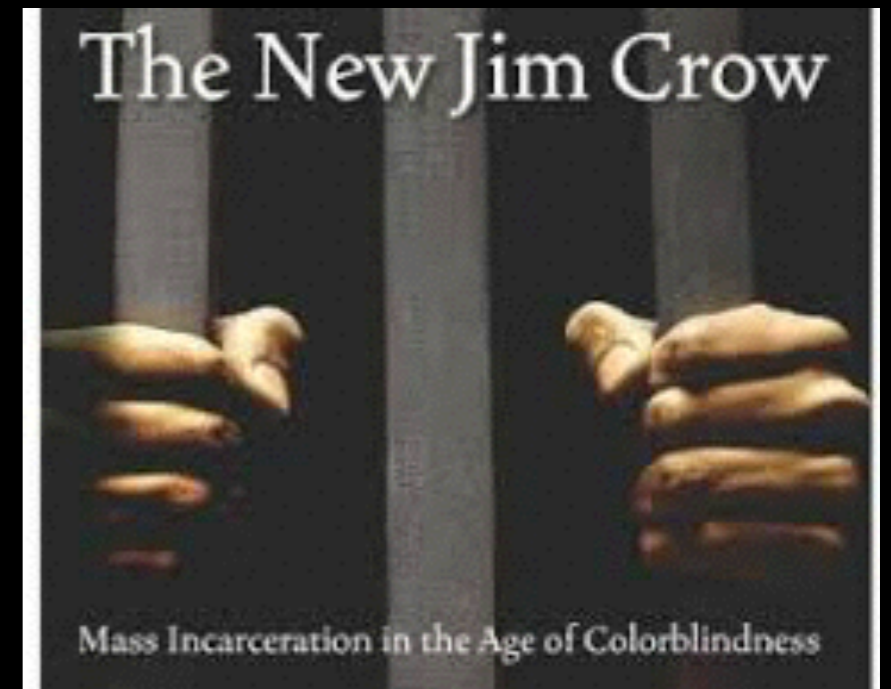
Strive for Justice and Peace

A dialogue on *The New Jim Crow* through the lens of our
Baptismal Covenant

Saint Mark's Cathedral
November 4, 2015

Overview of the next four weeks

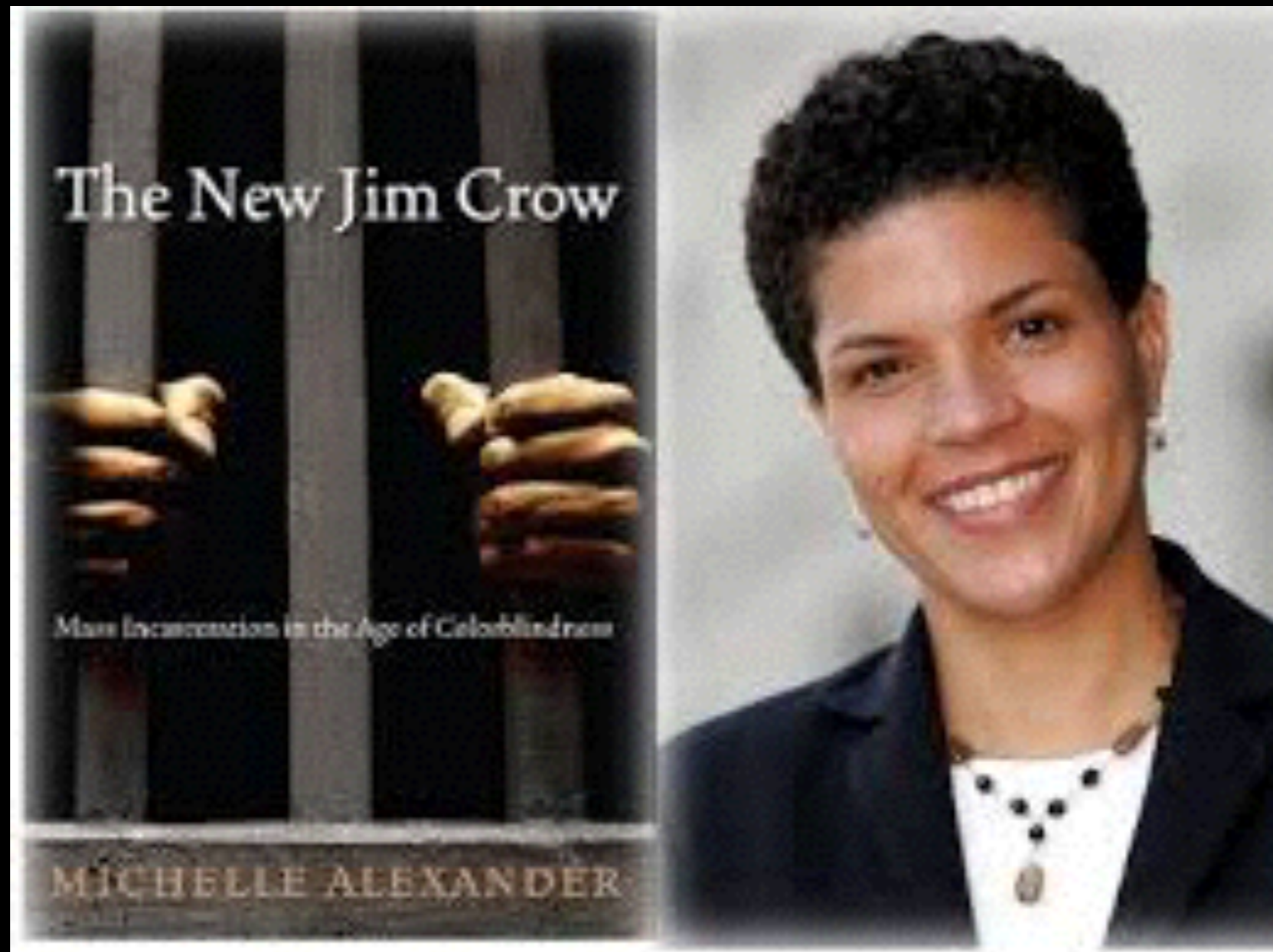
- Tonight- creating safe and sacred space and a quick overview of the book
- November 11- *A Legal Perspective*, Kim Ambrose,
- November 18- *A Sociologist Perspective*, Dr. Alec Campbell
- November 25- *What now?* Exploring steps going forward



Rules for the discussion/dialogue

Creating a safe and sacred space

1. We will respect confidentiality
2. We will share time equitably to ensure participation from the whole body
3. We will listen carefully and not interrupt
4. We will have open minds and be open to learning
5. We will not be disrespectful



Dr. Michelle Alexander

The New Jim Crow

Why are you here?

I want to discuss the race problem tonight and I want to discuss it very honestly. I still believe that freedom is the bonus you receive for telling the truth. “Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.” And I do not see how we will ever solve the turbulent problem of race confronting our nation until there is an honest confrontation with it and a willing search for the truth and a willingness to admit the truth when we discover it.

—Martin Luther King Jr., March 14, 1968

Why have this discussion? Why read this book?

- “revealing” a narrative
- As a response to the what we are hearing and witnessing in this country
- Justice as part of our identity (humans, Americans, Christians, Episcopalians)
- an effort to become “whole”

Why have this conversation here?

- Continue the conversation started with The Civil Rights movement (the parish hall as a gathering spot)- Civil Rights 2.0
- As a challenge to change our narrative about “rendering services to those in need”
- In our “job description” as Christians/Episcopalians- WWJD?
- we are not “whole” if we do not “respect the dignity” and “strive for justice and peace”—Baptismal Promises

Baptismal Promises

- Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
- Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
- Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
- ***Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?***

On striving for justice and peace-
This work is more than just the rich
tending to the poor, though that is
certainly part of it. Caring is often seen
as something “haves” do for “have nots.”

*Bishop Andrew Doyle,
Diocese of Texas*
*Unabashedly Episcopalian;
Proclaiming the Good News
of the Episcopal Church*



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Jim Crow was the name of the racial caste system which operated primarily, but not exclusively in southern and border states, between 1877 and the mid-1960s. Jim Crow was more than a series of rigid anti-black laws. It was a way of life. Under Jim Crow, African Americans were relegated to the status of second class citizens. Jim Crow represented the legitimization of anti-black racism.

–definition used from The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia



BRUCE WESTERN
on
MASS INCARCERATION

From chattel to criminal

“racism is highly adaptable”

Alexander p.22

- enslavement (1619)
- Black Codes (1866)
- Jim Crow (1881/1896 with Plessy v. Ferguson)
- criminalization of the black body- The New Jim Crow

Where it is possible let the bells toll and the praise be sung. But more than that, beyond today, when the bells stop ringing, and the funerals have been concluded, the best gift we will give to those that died and those who mourn for them, in Charleston, and across this globe, is to reform ourselves, to challenge ourselves, to give of ourselves working and striving for the vision of peace offered by Jesus himself.

Bishop Greg Rickel, on the shootings at Emanuel AME church in Charleston

Table Questions

- What does the term “The New Jim Crow” suggest about this new racial order?
- What are the initial parallels you see between the legal Jim Crow and mass incarceration?
- What narratives are being challenged by this discussion?
- Any questions going forward?