

Before you read this post I invite you to take a deep breath. I am not attempting to anger or cause division. I simply want to give you a glimpse into the complexity of being indigenous in a world that has been colonized by Western Europe and Christendom. Two entities that to this day have not fully grappled with their histories and with what their monuments represent to those who are still wrestling with the rotten fruits of their colonialism.

I am extremely grateful that no one perished and only one person was seriously hurt in the fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Personal injury and the loss of human life are tragic, and I pray for the firefighter who was injured.

As far as my feelings regarding the partial destruction of a historic cathedral that is a global iconic monument to the heresy of Christendom, in the Catholic Church, whose Doctrine of Discovery resulted in colonialism, slavery, and the genocide of indigenous peoples throughout the world, and was located in a country that at one point was the largest colonial land holder in Turtle Island?

Well...I do not celebrate its demise, but nor can I honestly lament it.

I understand that hundreds of millions of dollars have already been donated to rebuild the Cathedral. I hope, even pray, that when the Catholic Church and the French people rebuild Notre Dame they will remember and acknowledge the incredible pain such a building represents to those who were colonized by them throughout the world.

It is in times like this that I appreciate the wisdom of one of our indigenous elders, George Erasmus, from the Dené Nation:

“Where common memory is lacking, where people do not share in the same past, there can be no real community. Where community is to be formed, common memory must be created.”

– Mark Charles’ commentary in the wake of the 2019 fire at Notre Dame



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THE **Johnson Symposium**
 ON FAITH & SOCIETY

Celebrating the ministries
 of **Ronald K. Johnson**
 and **Stacy K. Johnson**
 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.



A Reconciling in Christ
 Congregation

THE **Johnson Symposium** ON FAITH & SOCIETY

*Celebrating the ministries
 of Ronald K. Johnson
 and Stacy K. Johnson
 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church*

“The Spiritual Price of the Doctrine of Discovery”

featuring **Mark Charles**



Saturday, November 16, 2019

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 16

“The Spiritual Price of the
Doctrine of Discovery”

OPENING RITUAL – 8:30-8:50 a.m.

SESSION ONE – 8:50-10:30 a.m.

– The Spiritual Price of the Doctrine of
Discovery, followed by Q & A

BREAK – 10:30-10:50 a.m.

SESSION TWO – 10:50 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

– The Doctrine of Discovery: Deconstructing
the Mythology of American History, followed
by Q & A

LUNCH – 12:30-1:30 p.m.

SESSION THREE – 1:30-2:45 p.m.

– Truth and Conciliation, followed by Q & A

THE GIVEAWAY – 2:45-3:15 p.m.

SESSION FOUR – 3:15-4:45 p.m.

– Reflections from Minnesota Native Leaders

CLOSING RITUAL – 4:45-5:00 p.m.

About the PRESENTERS

Mark Charles is a dynamic and thought-provoking public speaker, writer, and consultant. The son of an American woman (of Dutch heritage) and a Navajo man, he speaks with insight into the complexities of American history regarding race, culture, and faith in order to help forge a path of healing and conciliation for the nation. Mark is a regular columnist for *Native News Online* and the author of the popular blog “Reflections from the Hogan.” He served on the board of the Christian Community Development Association and is a former Board of Trustees member of the Christian Reformed Church of North America. Mark also consults with the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, has served as the pastor of the Christian Indian Center in Denver, CO, and is a founding partner of a national conference for Native students called “Would Jesus Eat Frybread?” Mark’s forthcoming book entitled *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery* is scheduled to be released from Intervarsity Press on November 5, 2019.

Other presenters will include local leaders from the Native Community, including Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, Brenda Blackhawk, Rep. Mary Kunesch-Podein, Thorne LaPointe, and Wakinyan LaPointe. Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan has also been invited, but her schedule does not allow her to confirm participation until closer to the event.

Previous Symposium Presenters

2010 – Dr. Marcus Borg
2011 – The Rev. Heidi Neumark
2012 – ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson
2013 – Dr. Larry Rasmussen
2014 – The Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber
2015 – Dr. John Arthur Nunes
2016 – The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney
2017 – Dr. Don Saliers & Emily Saliers
2018 – Imam Asad Zaman, Rabbi Michael Adam Latz, and Minnesota Senator John Marty

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church • 2019 Johnson Symposium Registration
Saturday, November 16, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Registration Information: Participants are encouraged to donate \$0-\$30, based on what feels appropriate for their situations. No one will be turned away.

Lunch will be provided. Please indicate any dietary restrictions upon registration. You may register and pay online at hulcimpls.org/symposium or by calling the church office (612) 729-8358.

Please note: For planning purposes, please register by Wednesday, November 6.