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The Edge of Living Memory: Black Theology as Source Material for Justice and Healing

Abstract:

What do we do with the wounds of a people and of a nation? Like the doubting disciple who longed to touch Jesus's side, we must acquaint ourselves with wounds: both the stories they tell and the healing they prefigure. How does Black theology help us to interpret the discarded bones of the Middle Passage; the GI Bill benefits denied to Black veterans; or the plight of Black women inmates shackled while giving birth? Using Black theology and a womanist framework, this lecture will engage why memory is a vital theological and hermeneutical tool for healing and justice.

Bio:

Yolanda Pierce is Dean of the Vanderbilt Divinity School; University Distinguished Professor of Religion & Literature; and University Distinguished Professor of African American & Diaspora Studies. Her scholarly research specialties include African American religious history; womanist theology; and race and religion. An accomplished administrator in higher education and a widely published writer, Pierce is a native New Yorker, public theologian, community activist, and ordained minister. <https://yolandapierce.com>