

ACT JUSTLY, LOVE MERCY

A Community Conversation

April 2, 2023

Blessing the Boats
By Lucille Clifton

may the tide
that is entering even now
the lip of our understanding
carry you out
beyond the face of fear
may you kiss
the wind then turn from it
certain that it will
love your back
may you
open your eyes to water
water waving forever
and may you in your innocence
sail through this to that

Community Agreements

1. Speak for yourself, not for others and not for an entire group
2. Be open to another perspective
3. It's okay to be raggedy
4. Use the "pass" or "pass for now" option as needed
5. Share "air time"
6. Honor confidentiality
7. Honor time limits



Question 1: Introductions

In his book "Just Mercy," Stevenson writes: "My work with the poor and the incarcerated has persuaded me that the opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty is justice."

Share a photograph, object, quote, or story that shows some aspect of justice in your everyday life in the Charlottesville community. Where do you see justice in action? How does this affect your personal definition of justice?

Question 2

When listening to Stevenson's lecture this past week, what stood out to you as particularly impactful—something that was shocking, emotional, thought-provoking, or inspirational? Share that moment from the lecture and then what that moment might reveal about your personal values. (If you did not attend the lecture, you could share about something from the clip we just watched).

Question 3

Based on what you heard in Stevenson's lecture and/or the video clip, where do you feel inspired to make change in your own life? Where do you feel inspired to make change in your community?

Question 4: Closing

Reflect on Stevenson's lecture and the conversation we had today. What themes would you like to continue thinking about or discussing?