



CENSUS SABBATH

Take time to spread the word and
prepare your faith community for the 2020 Census.

What's here:

- Activities for Census Sabbath
- Bringing the Census into Worship
- Relevant Sacred Texts
- Census Flyers

Get Out the Count in Your Congregation!

As Census Day on April 1, 2020, draws closer, it is important to celebrate our dignity and community through spreading the word about the 2020 Census to ensure all communities are counted. Census Sabbaths provide space during worship to reflect on the values that call us to be counted and share with your community the importance of the census. Below are some ideas of how you can celebrate a Census Sabbath with your community:

- 1) **Distribute flyers and bulletin inserts** to raise awareness.
- 2) **Preach on the Census.** Integrate the Census into worship through preaching about the dignity of all people, the importance of being counted, and what's at stake for your community. Check out our sermon guide below.
- 3) **Ask your faith leader** to mention or preach on the census during worship. Share the sermon guide with them and discuss what's important for your community to know.
- 4) **Read a litany on dignity.** Write your own or use our guide to let your community know that we all count.
- 5) **Give a short informational presentation.** Review the Census FAQs and important dates to learn more specifics about the 2020 Census to educate your community. Use FPL's presentation as a guide: bit.ly/censuspresentation
- 6) **Invite others to be a Faith Census Ambassador** to help spread the word about the 2020 Census. Sign up here: www.faithinpubliclife.org/census
- 7) **Share your Sabbath with us** and let us see the meaningful work you are doing! Tag Faith in Public Life on social media or send a picture of your Census Sabbath to census2020@faithinpubliclife.org

Bringing the Census into Worship: Census Sermon Guide

Dignity

- We believe that all people, regardless of race, religion, or immigration status, are made in God's image. Our God-given dignity demands recognition.
- What we declare when we answer the Census is that we are here, and we are part of "we the people" and we refuse to be excluded.
- *Fear not*, is the most often repeated phrase in Hebrew and Christian scripture--repeated 365 times. Do not be afraid to state your presence.
- Originally, the Census counted every white man, woman and child as a full person, counted enslaved people of African descent as $\frac{3}{4}$ of a person, and didn't count Native Americans at all. We have an opportunity to reclaim the census as a tool for dignity, justice, and equity.

Community

- When you count yourself, you are also making sure your neighbor's child has a seat in their classroom and their mother has access to medical care. We must work together and do everything in our power to make sure that everyone in our local communities are counted so we all can get the resources we deserve.
- The 2020 Census' impact on our communities is profound. It shapes everything from whether we have fair political representation in Congress to whether our roads, hospitals, schools and fire departments have the funding they need to support our health and well-being.
- You count in this country. Your work and your contribution to the common good and common ground, moves beyond the walls of where we worship. Your voice matters. Your communities, your schools, your children need you to be counted to receive the right economic apportionment.

Democracy

- A full, accurate count lays the foundation for a healthy democracy and communities where families thrive and flourish. By completing the Census and encouraging our communities do so, we claim our rightful representation and fulfill our responsibility to our neighbors and future generations.
- It is important to be counted in the Census because it is economic empowerment and political empowerment. As spiritual and moral people, to participate in our democracy is to be counted.
- The truth is that being counted contributes to the strengthening of the democracy. If we are undercounted, they are taking away our voices from our democracy and our rights.

Bringing the Census into Worship: Litany on Dignity

Reader: God, you tell us that we are made in your image. We believe that all people, regardless of race, religion, or immigration status have inherent dignity because you made us. Our God-given dignity demands recognition.

All: We will celebrate our dignity and we will count ourselves!

Reader: We know you long for the freedom of all people and for chains of oppression to break. For far too long, too many of your children have been excluded and counted as less than human, which has resulted in inequality and injustice. But we know you count each of us as equal in your eyes.

All: Just as you count us, we will count ourselves!

Reader: You've commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves. When we count ourselves, we are helping make sure not only our needs are met, but also that our neighbors have good schools, hospitals, roads, critical resources, and fair political representation.

All: For our neighbors, we will count ourselves!

Reader: Lord, you assure us to 'fear not.' You walk with us in our lives and we trust in your spirit and guidance. We proclaim ourselves as your children and our dignified presence in this nation.

All: We declare our presence and we will count ourselves!

Sacred Texts Relevant to the Census and Justice

Hebrew Bible

- The Lord spoke to Moses in the tent of meeting in the Desert of Sinai... He said: "Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one. (Numbers 1:1-2)
- Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all. (Proverbs 22:2)
- Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy. (Proverbs 31:9)
- Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression (Isaiah 1:17)
- But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5: 23-24)

New Testament Christian Scriptures

- In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world...So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. (Luke 2:1-5)
- "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed." Luke 4:18
- But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. (1 Corinthians 12:24-26)
- Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. (1 Timothy 5:3)

Islamic Scriptures

- He knows each one of them, and has counted them a full counting. (Maryam 19:94)
- Surely those who deny the truth spend their wealth to hinder people from the way of Allah, and will continue to so spend until their efforts become a source of intense regret for them. (Al-Qur'an 8:36)
- Do not mix truth with falsehood or hide the truth knowingly. (Al-Baqarah 2:42)
- They ask thee what they should spend. Say, "Let whatever of your wealth you spend be for parents, kinsfolk, orphans, the indigent, and the traveler. Whatever good you do, truly God knows it." (Al-Baqarah 2:215)
- You will never attain piety till you spend from that which you love. And whatever you spend, truly God knows it. (Ali 'Imran 3:92)

Let's make sure **everyone** is counted in the 2020 Census!

**"God created humankind in God's own image,
in the image of God he created them." – Genesis 1:27**

We believe that all people, regardless of race, religion, or immigration status, are made in God's image. Our divinely granted dignity demands equal recognition. When we participate in the Census, we claim our God-given dignity and declare that we are here.

The Census only happens once a decade and it is our opportunity to declare that **we are here**. Unfortunately, too many of us are not counted which results in less funding for our local schools and hospitals. \$800 billion of federal funds are distributed based on who is counted in the Census, so there's a lot at stake!

Our political representation is determined by how many people in our community are counted in the Census. When our neighbors are not counted it weakens our collective voice to make change.

Each and every one of us is part of "We The People" and we refuse to be excluded.

Stand up and be counted:

- Make a commitment now to participate in the 2020 Census.
- Educate your friends and family on why it's so important to be counted.
- Get involved by emailing Faith in Public Life at Census2020@faithinpubliclife.org

You can help your community be fully counted!

To learn more visit www.FaithinPublicLife.org/census

¡Asegurémonos que **todos** sean contados en el Censo 2020!

**“Dios creó al ser humano a su imagen,
los creó a imagen de Dios.” – Genesis 1:27**

Creemos que todas las personas, independientemente de su raza, su religión o su estatus migratorio, están hechos a imagen de Dios. Nuestra dignidad concedida por divinidad exige un reconocimiento igualitario. Cuando participemos en el Censo, reclamamos nuestra dignidad concedida por Dios y declaramos que estamos aquí.

El Censo solamente se lleva a cabo una vez cada década y es nuestra oportunidad para declarar que **estamos aquí**. Desafortunadamente, muchos de nosotros no son contados, lo que da como resultado menos financiamiento para nuestras escuelas locales y hospitales. \$800 mil millones de dólares en fondos federales son distribuidos en base a quien es contado en el Censo, ¡así que es mucho lo que está en juego!

Nuestra representación política es determinada por la cantidad de personas de nuestra comunidad que son contadas en el Censo. Cuando nuestros vecinos no son contados se debilita nuestra voz colectiva para crear un cambio. Todos y cada uno de nosotros forma parte de “Nosotros, El Pueblo” y nos rehusamos a ser excluidos.

Hágase escuchar y sea contado:

- **Comprométase ahora a participar en el Censo 2020.**
- **Eduque a sus familiares y amigos sobre la importancia de ser contados.**
- **Involúcrese enviando un correo electrónico a kherbert@faithinpubliclife.org**

¡Usted puede ayudar a que su comunidad sea contada en su totalidad!
Para conocer más visite www.FaithinPublicLife.org/Census