



International Council of Christians and Jews
2021 Virtual Conference
When all this is over, how do we want the world to be different?

WORKSHOP

Tuesday, June 22, 03:30 p.m. UTC:

THE SABBATH(S) AND HUMAN DIGNITY: A JOINT WITNESS?

Judith Shulevitz, Abigail Woolley Cutter

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed how merciless a 24/7 market economy can be to the needs of human beings. This workshop will explore what possibilities exist for Jews and Christians to witness together to a more humane approach to time in industrial and postindustrial economies, drawing as we do—though differently—on the biblical concept of the Sabbath (Ex. 20:8-11; Dt. 5:12-15). This theme recalls Abraham Joshua Heschel's discussion of the Sabbath as protecting human dignity. In an era when Christian theology in many quarters is moving beyond supersessionism, there also seem to be new opportunities for Christians to access a revitalized understanding of the Sabbath. This project would aim to learn from Jewish thinkers like Heschel while respecting the uniqueness of the rabbinic Shabbat. Can Jews and Christians give some form of public witness to the sacredness and importance of Shabbat/Sabbath rest? What might this look like? What are the limits? This workshop will be led by a Christian and a Jew and will foster significant interaction among the participants.

Shulevitz, Judith

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