

Celia Carlson : Good morning. Thank you for doing this.

Meaghan McCluskey : Welcome and thank you for being here!

susiedamico : Good Morning

Scotty : Good morning.

Vona Van Cleef, Rich Van Cleef : Good morning from the Van Cleefs in El Paso, TX!

Burry Bessee : Good morning from the Bessee's in Burlington Colorado

Debbie Brill : Good morning from Lamont, Alberta, Canada

Robert Williams : Good morning from Roswell, New Mexico

Carolyn : Good evening from London UK

Marianne Mead : Good evening from Northampton, UK

Diana Bass : Good afternoon from Washington, DC. The soon to be home of a NEW POTUS!

Stephen Crabtree : Good evening from Yorkshire

Br. Bill Bradley : Grace and Peace and blessings from Fairmont, WV.

Holly Montgomery : Good Joy this morning from Clearwater, Idaho...snowing!

David Fletcher : Nova Scotia Canada Hey there....not snowing.

Lynnwood Moore : Good midday from Tulsa OK.

Dorothy Wilson : Greetings from Laurens, SC. Sam Wilson

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : Bend, Oregon here. A little snow during the night. Still cold temps.

Virginia Kennerley : Good evening to all from Dublin. Cold here!

Megan Colwell : Portland, Oregon here. Mild winter so far. Greetings to all!

Sandy Ryman : Couple inches of snow in La Grande overnight.

Mary Meyers : Good afternoon from Greenwood, Indiana.

Sandy Harlan : Greetings from Indianapolis

Carol Harlow : Greetings from Tampa, FL

SarahLee Morris : Lubbock, TX, and a cold, clear day here

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : May our hearts and minds be open for a nourishing time of reflection. Happy Holy Days!

Kjell Johansen : greetings from Whitefish Bay Wisconsin with rain and hoping for snow

Joan Peyser : Good morning from Reno, NV. Advent Blessings!

Peggy Matthews : good afternoon ya'll.

Sandy johansen : Hello from Naples, FL

Peggy Matthews : Good afternoon ya'll From Peggy Matthews in Winston-Salem NC...where it's 61 degrees now!!

Karen Fraser Moore (she/her) : Greetings from Evansville IN

James Tierney : Good morning form Seattle

Joan Falconer : Good morning from Iowa City where we just had our first snow!

Donna Smith-Pupillo : good morning and blessings from St Louis.

Sandi Darrell : Good Morning from Edmonton, Alberta Canada

catherinenichols : Good morning/afternoon from Middlebury, VT

Celia Carlson : RoomRater: A. Good framing with ceramic plates.

Nicole Anderson : Good morning from Nicole of Washington National Cathedral, Washington DC. 😊

Richard Conville : greetings from Hattiesburg, MS

Barbara Scoville : Esther de Waal, Living with Contradiction, sees the tension between opposite ideas is a place of immense creativity and offers newness of life through the struggle.

Vicky Michaels : I have sound

Carolyn : sound is work for me

Kathleen Bumbis : I have sound

Nancy Cook (she/her/hers) : Sound is fine for me.

Megan Colwell : I have sound too - and it's beautiful!

David Porter : Marianne. Thank you so much for a 'strong' weak message. So many powerful thoughts. I need to go now. It's tea time in the UK. Every blessing to all this Christmas. David.

Diana Bass : Marianne has me thinking about “weak theology” as the theology of vulnerability; “strong theology” as the theology of victory. The gospels seem to point toward a hope of “victory,” especially imperial victory being swallowed up by vulnerability, that “victory” is completely transformed by God’s — and our — participation in compassion and hope.

Donna Slepach : Greetings from Portland. Glad you all are here.

Celia Carlson : In Oregon it raineth.

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : There is a slogan here in the USA: "God, guns, guts... (and a certain political party)." Clearly, in the "strong theology" camp. Defended with guns.

Vona Van Cleef, Rich Van Cleef : Perhaps strong theology is based on the OT God of might and weak theology on the NT God of love. Love persuades, might coerces.

Celia Carlson : I don't think we should draw an either-or between OT and NT, because the "OT" is Torah, the Hebrew Scriptures, and I do not think we want to continue any sort of theology that stigmatizes "our older brethren" in the faith.

Diana Bass : I would worry about OT/NT division - we've got beautiful visions of God's weakness throughout the Hebrew scriptures and frightening visions of a warlike God in the New (esp Revelation)

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : Agreed.

Br. Bill Bradley : Weak theology sounds like the theology of recovery. Surrender to win!

Babs Meairs and Ed Busch : Compassion is descriptive of God in both OT and NT.

Carolyn : I see that it was influence by the work of Jaques Derrida and deconstruction.

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : Part of the difficulties with Christian "supercessionism", that is, that Judaism had some of it wrong; Christianity makes it right, and displaces Judaism as "God"

Vona Van Cleef, Rich Van Cleef : Good point: surrender to win.

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : ^God's people.

Diana Bass : Song of Songs is all weak theology. Entire book. All about the beckoning of passion, wooing, pleasure.

Carolyn : Weak theology would disable the blind spots that come with domination cultures like colonialism or white supremacy. - as a theology strategy.

Carolyn : Because the domination culture claims that the things that go it's way are God's will.

Vicky Michaels : Agree that SoS is Weak Theology, and feel it expresses Love as the foundation of Strength.

catherinenichols : How about Gentle Theology rather than Weak?

Diana Bass : I suggested a "theology of vulnerability"

Carolyn : "Weak theology rejects the idea that God is an overwhelming physical or metaphysical force. Instead, God is an unconditional claim without any force whatsoever."wikipedia

catherinenichols : Right! So appropriate.

Virginia Kennerley : One side of "weak theology" for me, is that God needs our cooperation for good to prevail, as St Augustine pointed out long ago. "Almighty" has always been an unfortunate title for me, which I prefer not to use in the liturgy

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : Gordon Kaufman, in his book God the Problem, also points out that "omnipotence" is a mental construct. We can ask whether it truly maps our experience.

Stephen Braun : Was the aria, second musical sample, also from Handel's Messiah? If not, source?

Diana Bass : Weak theology edges toward panentheism and process thought - but those terms (as much as I like both) are hard for people to understand.

Gail Webber : I'm struggling with the "weak" vs. "strong" descriptions. Could it be "invitational" vs. "commanding"? Looking for a word that promotes "weak" in a more positive way.

John Tedrick : Try on: Compassionate Theology

Vicky Michaels : in reflection, I find that my preaching is on the fence. Sometimes preaching from the Strong, and sometimes Weak. Do other do that?

Celia Carlson : "Panentheism" is a term from Richard Rohr. Not everyone understands that: Christ is reality for Rohr. He distinguishes between Jesus and Christ, and I'm not sure that dualism is precisely what we're looking for here.

Connie : Maybe consider a word opposite to dominion theology. Weak theology doesn't have the depth of emotional word usage that it probably needs.

Diana Bass : That's not panentheism. Sadly, Fr Richard got that wrong. And that's said with love. (Plus, he's an in-real-life friend).
how do you define panentheism,, Diana?

Sandy Harlan : Love the idea of Messiah as event.

Norris Battin : See Marcus' "he God we Never Knew" for panentheism

barbara munster : One of the challenges of advent is to be ready- believe in hope and to recognize goodness so that we can walk forward amidst the clatter of "strong theology"

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : I like to think of hope as "love reaching into the future".

susiedamico : Non-dual ideas.

Sandy Harlan : Torn between either/or and both/and

Jo Margeson : I think that strong theology has won the battle, if not the war, in American Christianity and is in the vanguard of those shattering us.

David Depew : The revelation of God in Christ is of Christ crucified. That is God as sharing our weakness. Right?

susiedamico : It is 11:23

Diana Bass : For what it is worth, "panentheism" was coined in the early 19th century. The easiest definition is that God is with and through the entire universe, neither distant from nor identical to creation.

Karen Huck : This is Gail's quote: I'm struggling with the "weak" vs. "strong" descriptions. Could it be "invitational" vs. "commanding"? Looking for a word that promotes "weak" in a more positive way.

Diana Bass : Marcus was a panentheism.

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : Gail's comment:
"I'm struggling with the "weak" vs. "strong" descriptions. Could it be "invitational" vs. "commanding"? Looking for a word that promotes "weak" in a more positive way.

Diana Bass : panentheist.

kateelizacorbett : Why not KIND theologu

Sherin Ruth Jackson : Gentle theology!

Ken Sandine : Jeff's remarks about the tension in the gap prompt me to reflect on my experience as a Centurion, and as one who follows the guy on the donkey. Embracing the ambiguity and understanding the complexities is a challenge.

susiedamico : YEs, God is in the silence

Maria Nersesian : a theology of Certainty vs. a theology of Open-ended Goodness

Celia Carlson : Purple is the color of both repentance and empire. So a difficulty we have is that our symbols are multi-valent. Anything rooted in language has multiple meanings, and we have to inhabit that gap. Hence, the attractions of the via negativa, silence.

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : Maybe part of the challenge is that "strong theology" is largely outside of ourselves; "weak theology" requires a responsiveness from our inner experience. We have to trust ourselves as able to respond.

Sandy Harlan : certainty versus ambiguity

Evelyn : How do we shift the conservation from strong to weak theology when confronted with strong theology?

susiedamico : Humility vs. ego

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : Without God, we cannot.
Without us, God will not.

~ St. Augustine

Diana Bass : Conventional theology loves the "omnis"

Celia Carlson : Isn't an incarnational theology that affirms the flesh inherently a "weak" theology, because God in the reality of a newborn baby points us to the fact of vulnerability and potential loss?

Valerie Hazen : John Dominic Crossan said the quote, "God without you will not, you without God cannot.", is from Desmond Tutu in 1999.

Marianne Mead : Vulnerable instead of weak

David from Nova Scotia : Eric Law has done some interesting work around the power dynamics of weak and strong, noting that all of Jesus' power was dependent upon his weakest moment, ie when he was on the cross.

Sherin Ruth Jackson : Embodied!

Karen Huck : I prefer believing in an omniscient, omnipotent Mystery that makes the horse snort ha ha.

Shawn : Love that Karen.

Jim Mock : Isn't portions of strong theology destructive? And when a strong theology is demonstrated in hurting others how do those of with a "weak theology" respond?

Sandy Harlan : I often dread the Advent season in the church. It often reveals strong theology. I love thinking in the vein of weak theology. Has perhaps rescued Advent for me.

Kjell Johansen : It seems to me that weak theology recognizes that our lives are lived with a degree of ambiguity whereas in a strong gheology everything

Babs Meairs and Ed Busch : I prefer the Sarum use of blue for Advent, Mary's color, as it denotes for me the preparation before a birth, a time of hope.

Diana Bass : Thinking about 2 Corinthians - the discussion in chap 12 about strength being made perfect in weakness...

Celia Carlson : Jesus had little to do with snorting horses, but he did ask for the colt that had never been ridden for his ride into Jerusalem. One can imagine that little beast snorting with great surprise at being needed by the lord.

Paul D Potter : Amen

Peggy Ziegler : The strong God has never had any appeal for me. It is the God who cares about me and is sensitive to how I feel that I rely on and try to more like in my living.

susiedamico : Thanks Peggy, yes!

catherinenichols : Sarum blue delights me, too. Mary's expectation underscores so much of the lovely season of Advent.

Connie : I think what causes me to shrink from the term weak theology is the synamic range such as insipid infirm dull feeble... etc. Language might need a whole new overhaul of the theological depth of what weak might mean.

alexis : If "Jesus will take care of it" , why research a vaccine?

Diana Bass : I love hearing Abbey panting as she sits next to Marianne.

Kjell Johansen : It seems to me that weak theology recognizes that our lives are lived with a degree of ambiguity whereas in a strong theology everything is decided because God has ordained it.

susiedamico : Connie, Yes for me it is difficult to read the Bible as printed. Is there a translation that is more accessible?

Sandy Harlan : Love that Kyell

susiedamico : Thank you Kjell!

Connie : Dominion theology suggests domineering and forceful experiences which have an end time to look forward to. Weak theology suggests to me a newness of experience, living in the now instead of a future time that may or may not be realized.

Dave and Carolyn Brock : I wonder how the poorest of the poor or those on the margins of society would respond to this discussion--not that all of them would have the same perspective. The weakest in our midst may find hope in a 'strong' God.

susiedamico : The strong God crushes the poor.

susiedamico : Yes, Brene

Celia Carlson : It's not God who crushes the poor, but those who wish for God's power and imagine that they can seize it.

susiedamico : perhaps

Vona Van Cleef, Rich Van Cleef : Or gives them hope in that a strong God is in control.

Marianne Mead : The image of a strong God is used by the selfish to maintain their power of the more vulnerable or the most easily exploited - just my opinion...

Richard Conville : Many of those Congressmen who went to DC to support the TX suit to the SCOTUS viewed themselves as risking their lives for the love of their country. Hard to deal with that!

Sandy Harlan : Love the vulnerability concept.

Debbie Brill : When confronted by strong theology "Jesus will keep you safe" perhaps asking a question that starts with "have you thought about.." or "my understanding is..."

Peggy Ziegler : Thank you Diana . You said just what I believe

Gail Webber : A vulnerable God for vulnerable people.

susiedamico : Great way to Segway with someone Debbie Brill

Peggy Ziegler : Like light in the dark

Celia Carlson : Segway! the vehicle for the Fall. And on that segue . . .

Richard Conville : our "opponents" are not interested in goodness.

Shawn : Thanks for your comment 'Dave and Carolyn Brock'.

Celia Carlson : Saying one is "risking one's life for love of country" in the service of a false or evil ideal is hypocrisy and disingenuousness, not a genuine claim in transparent language. "Let your yes be yes and your no be no."

Carolyn Davies : Thank you all so much xxx

susiedamico : YEs. SOOO GOOD!

Diana Bass : Thanks everybody! I learned a lot from your comments, too!

Sandy Ryman : Yes, prefer this to October's process.

Kevin : This way of doing plenary was certainly very smooth

Nancy Cook (she/her/hers) : Yes, good way to work this.

James Tierney : Helpful, wonderful, love the insights and the discussion

catherinenichols : Jeff, thanks. An excellent plenary session!

Burry Bessee : Thank-you all for your reflections!

Peggy Ziegler : I enjoyed hearing all the comments

Megan Colwell : Yes, I really liked this form of facilitated plenary comments and ideas. THANK YOU!

alexis : Thank you! Looking forward to next time!

Susan S : yes, I like this format, like hearing a wide variety of thought

Carol Harlow : Yes I like this plenary method.

marilyncolyar : Thank you so much. This was a rich and rewarding Saturday morning!

Mary Fuller : like this way of doing plenary.

Fremont Claudia : Yes, this was a very good way to have a conversation.

Celia Carlson : This discussion was lit!

Evelyn : Thank you, Jeff. your coordination of plenary was well done and helpful.

Vicki Poier : I really liked the way you did this plenary session. Thanks for everything.

SarahLee Morris : Definitely like this facilitated plenary—please keep.

Nancy Nelson : YES, yes, yes - this is a GREAT way of managing so many comments and interests. Nancy Nelson, CA -

Nancy Cook (she/her/hers) : You can also save the chat yourself with the three dots on the right.

Bill Bard : excellent format for plenary. keep it up!

Lynnwood Moore : Great session. Much to think about. Thank you very much.

Vicky Michaels : This conversation was a beautiful gift to me. I'm looking forward to more!

Richard Conville : thanks to all; great discussion.

Chela Sloper she/her Bend, Oregon : Much gratitude. Off to another (potentially nourishing) Zoom!

Celia Carlson : Thank you, everybody. Thank you, Marianne and support staff.

Vern Johnson : What about a Theology of Glory versus a Theology of the Cross

Diana Bass : Vern - I've thought a lot about Luther this morning!

Edgar Wales : Oppressive - Open

Liz Lambert : Thank you! I enjoyed this format! Wonderful, thoughtful discussion!

Edgar Wales : Authoritative - Compassionate

marilyncolyar : Love the Schweitzer quote—which has been set to an anthem by Jane Marshall.

Jackie Yerby (she/her) : Thank you, Marianne. Blessings. See you in January.

Shawn : Perhaps we can try to understand why strong theology appeals to so many.

Sherin Ruth Jackson : Thanks so much from UK

Richard Conville : thanks so much Marianne

catherinenichols : Thank you everlastingly, Marianne. Love from Catherine

Deb Grohs : thank you

Mary Fuller : Thank you, Marianne!

Br. Bill Bradley : Thank you. Pace E Bene

Vona Van Cleef, Rich Van Cleef : Peace be with you all.

Donna Slepach : Abundant thanks

Ron Mellish : Really enjoyed this format. Thank you.

susiedamico : Can we have the Schweitzer quote in the chat?

Meaghan McCluskey : "He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside, He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to use the same words: "Follow

thou me!" and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfill for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is."- Albert Schweitzer

Ron Mellish : Ron Mellish, Burlington, Ontario, Canada...great discussion/dialogue.

Ron Mellish : , thank you.

susiedamico : THANK YOU!

Jeff and Caryl Creswell : If you would like to leave a personal comment in the chat for Marianne please do!

Kevin : Marianne so great to reconnect. Greetings from the desert of Las Vegas. I've been playing the hermit out here for the past few years. We still have that bench in Albuquerque. Good memories. - Kevin Day

Alexandre : Many thanks, Marianne, Jeff, Meaghan, and all others! God bless (Brazilian, connected from the Netherlands)

Carol Harlow : I want to thank Marianne for these sessions. I am thankful that this community is out there.

Sandy Ryman : Hi Marianne -- this is your "neighbor" in La Grande, Oregon. I have met you and Marcus at Trinity and attended many workshops there. I appreciate that what I learn with you is so practical to my everyday life. I find myself feeling intense anger during this time of people ignoring masks during Covid and this reminds me I have had some good conversations of entering into understanding with others. So, I now remember how to cultivate those in some circumstances.

Babs Meairs and Ed Busch : Dear Marianne, after the previous session I emailed an experience with you that shows why I will always associate you and Marcus with hospitality. Today I think hospitality goes well with Advent. Blessings!,

Vicki Poier : When I read Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time, Marcus really put words to my own experience in the MS-LC. I consider him my mentor. Today's weak and strong theology really meant a lot, also Advent as Event. Thanks. So meaningful.

Vicki Poier : I'm at Montevideo MN. Graduate of Concordia. Professor Borg all 4 years!