

**Second Saturday Conversation January 9, 2021**

**Celia Carlson** : Good morning, all. What a beautiful day.

**Lynette Wedig** : Greetings from Kerrville, Texas.

**Aine** : Good evening from Sheffield, UK

**Rosalind MacDonald** : Hello from Grand Bend, Ontario

**carla gilbert** : Greetings from Carla in Berea KY

**barbara munster** : Greetings from Berkeley, California

**Roy M Carlisle** : Greetings all from Alameda CA

**Suellen Myers** : Hello fro The Woodlands, Tx

**Carol Harlow** : Greetings from Tampa, FL

**Pam Griffin** : Hello from Carrollton, GA.

**Br. Bill Bradley** : Peace and All Good from Fairmont, WV!

**Harry Dieckmann** : Hello from Tupelo MS

**Kate Eliza's iPad (2)** : 🙏🏠 Hey, from Watch Hill, Rhode Island

**susiedamico** : Good morning from chilly Colorado.

**dawn** : please share the name of the Van Morrison song being played. thanks.

**Catherine** : Good morning from a summery New Zealand (at 6.30 am) :)

**Chris Wolfe** : hello from Gibsons BC

**Maria Nersesian** : Good morning from northern CA!

**Jennifer McCracken** : Good morning from Boston

**Barbara Harrison** : Good afternoon from a chilly Scotland

**Cheryl McGinnis** : Good Morning for Bend, OR

**Kate Eliza's iPad (2)** : yes name please ase

**Marsha Sturdevant (she, her)** : Hello from Birmingham, Alabama

**susiedamico** : Does any one has suggestions for a good version of the Bible that aligns with our point of view here? Annotated?

**Noeline Sanders** : Good evening from Surrey, England

**Barbara** : NRSV

**susiedamico** : Thanks!

**Br. Bill Bradley** : The New Oxford Annotated is good.

**Barbara** : Hello from Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Celia Carlson** : There's the New Oxford annotated Bible.

**Robert Williams** : Hello from Roswell, New Mexico

**John Tedrick** : The CEB is a very good resource.

**Don Worthington** : Good Morning from New Hamburg, Ontario

**Barbara Harrison** : I like the Passion Translation for the footnotes, but not all the Old Testament is available yet.

**Jack Frost** : Good morning from Conway, Arkansas

**St. Michael's Church Milton** : Good afternoon from Boston!

**St. Michael's Church Milton** : (Massachusetts)

**St. Michael's Church Milton** : (USA)

**Deb Grohs** : Good Afternoon from southeastern Virginia!

**Maria Nersesian** : I think the Van Morrison song is When Heart is Open

**A. S.** : Good evening from Germany. Heidi

**Celia Carlson** : Guten Tag!

**Celia Carlson** : (Guten Abend!)

**Celia Carlson** : Meaghan is awesome!

**Bonnie Ahola** : Guten Tag!

**Bev** : Hello from Whitehorse in the Yukon, Canada

**Dorothy Wilson** : greetings from Laurens, SC

**Celia Carlson** : Raking all those forests makes you robust!

**Bonnie Ahola** : Ice swimming makes one robust also.

**Celia Carlson** : But surely we ARE a confessional church? In the sense in which Dietrich Bonhoeffer meant that, a witnessing, prophetic faith.

**Chela Sloper** : There is a trope in popular culture, "I'm against organized religion." My response to that is that it isn't the organization that's the problem but rather prescriptive belief and sneering self-righteousness.

**susiedamico** : Kind theology?

**Robert Meloon** : Which is Caputo's primus opus?

**Br. Bill Bradley** : Caputo has a book titled "Radical Theology". That may be it.

**susiedamico** : Right on!

**Dan Schleter** : Good thoughts I'm enjoying this thank you

**Celia Carlson** : White supremacists just attempted a coup d'etat in the U.S. carrying "Jesus Saves" signs and Confederate flags. What's underneath their story of the republic that is passionately stirring them to violence?

**Jerry Slepach** : I was unable to join and missed the first half hour. Will I be able to hear later what I missed? Thanks

**Nancy Cook (she/her)** : Recordings in the past have been posted on the Borg Foundation web site.

**Robert Meloon** : Thanks Br. Bradley

**David Depew** : In Orthodox Greek symbolon is the name for creed

**Meaghan McCluskey** : If you were unable to be in the first half of today, we will have a recording uploaded to the website early next week.

**norm** : Is there a state where thought does not happen, and what would that look like?

**Br. Bill Bradley** : You are welcome.

**susiedamico** : Centering Prayer is the absence of thought in the presence of Spirit

**Chela Sloper** : It is tragic that in much of popular (American) Christianity, people are taught they cannot be trusted to mature into their own thoughts and interpretations of the "symbol" or, more immediately, their own experience.

**susiedamico** : Chela, well said.

**susiedamico** : YES!

**Laurence Sears** : Bravo

**Eileen Epperson** : Wow. When I did the Landmark Forum I realized on a totally experiential level, I GOT this whole dynamic of thought becoming absolute. The way I had put my whole life together. How the mind works got very clear and very personal. Huge freedom. The cost of being right is not hidden from me.

**Sandy Harlan** : Love the poem.

**John Tedrick** : The place where we are certain...

**Chela Sloper** : The place where we are right: it doesn't breathe. There's no oxygen or even a breeze.

**Susan Strouse** : How does being right relate to righteousness?

**Celia Carlson** : Abraham was a "righteous" man; it would be helpful to know what the Hebrew term is and its etymology.

**Mary Jones** : Right as in the place where we believe we know the absolute, the only truth

**Sandy Harlan** : For me, the "yard" is our playground.

**Chela Sloper** : Hebrew for righteous: Zadik (zadiq)  
May have more of a reference to the law of early Judaism. (innocent, upright)

**Celia Carlson** : A "yard" is also a prison yard, a compound surrounded by walls and armed guards. One is not free.

**Cynthia** : Whisper: spirit: hope

**Linda White** : I imagine a deserted farm yard and a house which has fallen in upon itself.

**Meaghan McCluskey** : **Reminder to please keep yourselves muted. Thank you!**

**Sandy Harlan** : Have long rejected the idea that God wants us to be dependent children. Free will contradicts that way of thinking.

**Kjell Johansen** : To me, religion is a myth meaning that it is our finite being trying to understand the infinitude of God. So being human, we bring to our understanding of God all our human frailty and yet our current 21st century understanding of the universe. Therefore, to keep on relying on the understanding of Jesus from 2009 years ago means that never grow. If we truly are children of God, then that analogy means that as a good parent God wants us to grow up. We should mature. As St Paul said, when I was a child I thought as a child. So if we don't grow up, we will always be stuck in an immature understanding of our relationships to our fellow humans and to God.

**Celia Carlson** : Where does Buddhism fall on this axis?

**Br. Bill Bradley** : Right here under personal I believe.

**Doug Crowe** : Perhaps humanism?

**Carolyn** : Sunday assemblies

**Chela Sloper** : Well, there's always Unitarian Universalism... :-)

**Rev. Eileen Epperson** : Pagans and earth-centered religions promote choosing one's own beliefs and being 100% responsible for them. And yes, many Unitarians would see this path as well.

**Celia Carlson** : Classical humanism is well within Christianity. Lorenzo Valla was a priest. Perhaps by humanism you mean "new age" trends as an aspect of popular culture. I would say "popular culture" as potentially an institution-less vehicle for loosely formed and labile "faiths."

**Celia Carlson** : If you attached a rotary egg-beater type instrument to the belly of the plane and flew low, that would be a very efficient way of raking those forests.

**Susan Shayegi** : Thank you Jarmo, that was a great presentation

**Sandy Harlan** : Much appreciate the presentation about finitude and infinitude

**Celia Carlson** : Very robust, Jarmo. Thank you.

**Bill Hoffman** : One theologian has defined religion as "a clear comprehension of life in light of an intelligible theory."

**susiedamico** : Joy, gratitude, blessing

**Chela Sloper** : Not transactional!! YAY!!!

**Br. Bill Bradley** : Our Ultimate Concern is our God; and that "generates" our religion.

**Forrest Meyer** : I don't quite understand that one person's religious freedom ends where another person's freedom begins. Hope I recalled that correctly. Not challenging the statement; want to understand it.

**Chela Sloper** : "Believe in Jesus (payment) and you shall be saved (purchase)."

**Marianne Mead** : Interesting that fundamentalism exists in religion just as strongly as it does in the anti-religion movement, with people like Dawkins, Hitchens et al. It seems to me that these standpoints fail to provide us with the imagination to perceive what God could mean for each of us.

**susiedamico** : agree

**Stephen Braun** : the Eastern branches of Christianity have retained the idea of theosis - the divine spark within, not dissimilar to the Hindu conception.

**Chela Sloper** : Gandhi: If God is going to come to the poor, he must come in the form of bread. (gross paraphrase)

**Gary's iPad** : William James in his book about the human religious experience helpfully talked about the necessarily undefined but hopeful "something more."

**Vern Johnson** : N.F.S. Grundtvig, "Human First - Then Christian"

**Sandy Harlan** : No such thing as black or white—dualism as Richard Roy describes it.

**Sandy Harlan** : Sorry, Richard Rohr

**Marianne Mead** : Is that response that we cannot believe in some of the institutional teaching not just the demonstration of becoming adult?

**Houston** : from imperial/heavenly theology to grounded in the here and now

**Heather Riggs** : As a Gen Xer, This whole conversation feels outdated. I recognize some of these shallow definitions of Christianity in my older congregation members, but not in the younger members and definitely not in my own faith. What I teach as a pastor, is to follow the teachings and life example of Jesus and I trust God to reveal Godself to each individual.

**Robert Meloan** : Marianne, I like your substitution of the "passive" noun, faith, for the "active" noun, trust.

**Carolyn** : 12 steps show people that the more they think the weaker God is - there is a relationship between how much we think intellectually and a experience of god in the world.

**Lynette Wedig** : I hope that these types of conversations are never outdated and that our definitions of Christianity are never shallow.

**David Depew** : Struck my Chela' remark that she couldn't be liberated unless she had been in that structure before. Generally true?

**susiedamico** : Yeah Heather!

**susiedamico** : Matthew Fox, Richard Rohr

**Br. Bill Bradley** : As a Franciscan I my religion IS social justice.

**Sandy Harlan** : Just want to clarify, I did not leave. I just couldn't unmute quickly enough.

**Allen Jones** : I'm concerned what you believe, I want to know where, when. you seen the holy.

**Allen Jones** : I'm not concerned....

**susiedamico** : Where is there an institutional church in brick and mortar that I can find?

**Dick Conville** : Heather, what is the tradition of your church?

**Catherine** : My daughter is a Millennial going to a church lead by Gen X pastors - she is very much taught a transactional faith.

**Heather Riggs** : [www.oakgroveunitedmethodist.com](http://www.oakgroveunitedmethodist.com) is my church because several have asked

**Chela Sloper** : That's a beautiful observation: that we are in the midst of a Reformation. Excellent framing!

**susiedamico** : Yes new Reformation

**Sandy Harlan** : Thanks. Good conversation. Unfortunate we cannot break into rooms so more people can have opportunity to share.

**Carol Harlow** : Thanks Heather for your thoughts!



**Peggy Ziegler** : So happy to hear this young perspective as this i our responsibility

**Heather Riggs** : my church worships online for those who keep asking me privately  
[www.oakgroveunitedmethodist.com](http://www.oakgroveunitedmethodist.com)

**Gail Webber** : Thank you Heather

**carla gilbert** : Amen!

**Susan Shayegi** : Thank you Marianne for another great talk! I appreciate hearing from everyone.

**Heather Riggs** : one way to look for progressive churches is to look for churches who are members of the Reconciling Ministries Network for UMC, or Reconciling in Christ for ELCA.

**Br. Bill Bradley** : As a Lutheran Franciscan I just wanted to say that we are RIC and ELCA.

**Bonnie Ahola** : I just want to thank everyone for doing these programs. There is nothing like this locally for me.

**Cheryl McGinnis** : Glad to hear Sibelius' "This is My Song" from Finlandia...always brings me to tears..thanks, Jarmo...

**Nancy Cook (she/her)** : I think being forced by the pandemic to be virtual has showed us a deep hunger to connect with these types of conversations.

**Dan Schleiter** : Great time thanks where is he at lives

**Allen Jones** : The way forward is always to walk into the mystery of tomorrow not with dogmatism but embracing the dynamic of life just we breathe the air, indeed the breath of God.

**Meaghan McCluskey** : Reminder we will have a recording uploaded early next week of this meeting.

**Christopher** : This is my "maiden voyage" on Zoom. What a wonderful experience - and so wonderful to hear, once again, the voice and thoughts of Marianne. Love to you Marianne.  
Chris

**Dick Conville** : Jarmo, I like your observation that living a meaningful life frees one to be compassionate.

**Heather Riggs** : Online worship, and online ministry was already a movement in process that the pandemic has catalyzed. Going forward, many of us think that online ministry will continue along side in-person engagement.

**Nancy Cook (she/her)** : I hope you are right, Heather.

**Allen Jones** : not to throw out Christianity (traction in history) but to frame it in the dynamic of life of which life is continually creation.

**Carol Harlow** : During this presentation I suddenly understood the Rilke quote about "loving the questions".

**Dick Conville** : Marianne, I love your observation that God is not transactional. Implications for prayer? Thanks.

**Meaghan McCluskey** : If we do not get to your question or comment, you may leave them here in the chat- I will keep the meeting open and then save the chat by 11:45. Thank you!

**Stephen Braun** : been to Sol Vang twice in last 5 years, love it.

**Donna Slepach** : This was so excellent and stimulating - I'd like to see this specific discussion continue.

**Connie** : One synonym for transactional is negotiable. As I remember Abraham negotiated with God concerning Sodom. And when I had heart problems I told God that if there was one person who needed me that I would go to the doctor the next day. I went to the doctor, had triple bypass and three years later my husband needed me because he had lung cancer. Was that transactional?

**Heather Riggs** : As a Gen Xer, I'm not that young! I'm 48!

**Christopher** : Throw off your cloak" - and Jesus said, "what would you have me do for you?"

**Christopher** : Suggestion: how about setting up your group on a Facebook "group" so we can interact with each other?

**Mary Arthur** : Within the ELCA there's such a diversity of "orthodoxy" - It's refreshing to hear from one of "my own" who thinks as I do!! Thank you, Jarmo.

**ann Connolly- Seattle** : Very uplifting spirit --needed this week. Thank you!

**Meaghan McCluskey** : If you have any further thoughts please leave

**Meaghan McCluskey** : And we will have a recording of the meeting available early this next week on the website!