

Br. Bill : Grace and Peace from WV!

Meaghan (she/her) : Welcome back Br. Bill!

Mary Jean : Hello, Everyone!

Harry : Hello from Tupelo, MS

Carol : Greetings from hot, sunny Tampa, FL!

Mary Jean : Hello from West Linn, Oregon. A lovely day here.

Marie Aurea : Hello Everyone!

Clee : Good Morning from Fruita CO

Jeanne : Blessings from the Oregon Coast

Alexis : good morning from Laconia, NH!

Barbara : Love and blessings from Barbara in Ann Arbor, MI

Louise : And blessings from Vancouver, BC.

Mellish : Hello from Burlington, Ontario, Canada

Kjell : It is a pleasant 78 F here in Whitefish Bay, WI, USA

Elaine : Warm blessings from Plantation, FL

Linda : Greetings on a beautiful day in Northfield, MN

Deb : Good Afternoon from Hampton Roads Virginia!

Meaghan : As a reminder, please remain muted!

robin. : Warm greetings from central Maine

Barbara G. : Thank you and hello from Colorado.

Christopher J. : Good morning from the sunny (at the moment) gorgeous Northern Oregon coast

Patti : Good afternoon from Tottenham Ontario Canada

Claudia : the slide is blurry, we cannot read it.

Harriet : Patti, Google Bridges Bay in Windsor, that is my family.

Sara : Good Morning from Santa Maria California on Chumash Land.

Babs,Ed : Greetings from San Diego, CA!

Robert : Good morning from So. Cal., Holy Cross EC, "Open Minds, Open Arms"

Sam : Greetings from Laurens, SC

Christopher J. : I would find closed captioning a great help - especially since all microphones are not "equal". Nor are all ears and hearing ability. Thanks. Chris Armstrong-Stevenson

Vicki : Good morning from Arroyo Grande, CA. So nice to be with you, Marianne and all!

lyn : Good Morning (or Afternoon) from Lyn in Franklin, Massachusetts.

Peggy : hello frpm Winston-Salem North Carolina

Donna Slepach : Greetings from Portland. OR

Jackie Y - SG21/PDX : Good morning from Portland, OR.

Alison : Good evening from Glasgow Scotland

liliana : Such a good way to express how Jesus is present: an attachment figure. Same here

liliana: Good morning from Denver, CO

Barbara G. : Would love to have you say more about the difference between your young child Jesus/presence and that presence as a young adult. Thank you.

liliana : Our interpretations are carnal! Amen!

liliana : Live and love without a why!

Barbara G. : Religion is our response to our spirituality.

robin.: I don't think religion and spirituality are mutually exclusive.

Christopher J. : I would like to see a definition of the term "religion" vis-a-vis this conversation.  
Chris A-S

liliana : Religion comes from the Latin words: RE-LEGARE; retying together, re-connecting to God and one another

Steve : How would the term "spirituality" be defined?

liliana : A religionless religion

Mary : And how we respond is a product of where, when and to whom we are born. God has many names!

liliana : We all have a religious impulse

Robert : From Marcus' Conversations with Mark p.xiv, "From my Christian and intellectual journey has come my vocational passion: introducing Christians and seekers to a way of seeing Christianity – including the Bible, the gospels, and Jesus – that makes persuasive and compelling sense. In particular, my passion is adult theological re-education [emphasis mine]. Such re-education needs to happen at the congregational level. It is a crucial task.

Marianne : I think you are right about religion being part of the human condition. Absolutely true that the institutions have damaged people in their search. Too strict, too dominated by various 'authorities', often quite patriarchal. I also reflect on christianity versus other forms of human relationship with "perfection within" which is my personal conceptualisation of the concept of God.

Joan Peyser : what would today's liturgy look like to express a non-sovereign God?

Christopher J. : "We" have made God in our (individual) image. Chris A-S

Alexis : read Rabbi Jonathan Sacks's "Not in God's Name": Confronting Religious Violence".

liliana : What is going on in the name of God? Possibilities, stirring...

Celia Carlson : "Economy" is the organization of energy and attention; so yes, it's economy, as an icon is a focus of economy. ("Oikos" is the hearth, our heart, where our love lies and our life is centered.)

Virginia: How about "God is unexpected grace"?

Alexis : I have to ask whether a non transactional God leaves a job for the institutional church.

Christopher J. : If we are to get away from God as the "conditional"/"transactional" Being, then why will we pray? All prayers are "begging" transactions, even prayers of Thanks.. Chris A-S

Kjell : I do not like the personification of God. I like to consider God as the magnum mysterium

and that opens me to the search for the mystery that is me and is the universe. My goal to find and live in the relationship with the mystery with love and hope.

Virginia : Surely “theopoetics” is what is needed for good, engaging, revelatory liturgy?

Joan : Lately I have been moving away from the notion of God the omnipotent and omniscient. Instead, I am drawn to the Holy Spirit as a "power grid" of love, kindness and connection across humanity and creation. I see Jesus as a holy person. I am perplexed by how suffering and the cross are described even as I experience deep grief and ambiguous loss associated with the mental illness of a loved one but I am holding onto to hope for recovery and finding new life.

Mary Jean : For me, God is an intuitive presence, since childhood, understood through community, study, worship, and service. God lives God’s life in me (and in every other part of creation). I experience God as an every present companion, closer than my spouse.

liliana: Judith Wright is brilliant!

Shawnda, ALA Public Policy & Advocacy : +Alexis

Christopher J. : From Chris A-S: Marianne - if appropriate, would you expand on how you became not only a Christian, but also a Christian Priest, since as you said, you came from a "place" of no religion. What caused you to begin studies under Marcus, ?leading to priesthood? Or as part of your priesthood studies?

Mary Jean : Signing off. God bless you all. MJ

Carole : How can i find the judith wright poem...so much to ponder...

emilie : I like this definition of hope I found in a book by Lyanda Lynn Haupt a few years ago:

Mary : I had been moving in this direction for a while but it was bringing discontent and unease. These sessions—and time with you at RLR—have helped bring clarity and comfort, and more growth minus the unease and discontent.

emilie : The definition is: Hope is that virtue by which we take responsibility for the future. Not just responsibility for our individual futures, but also for that of the world. Not dependent upon specific outcome..not an antidote to despair.”

Virginia : wouldn’t it be important next year to try to involve some young people in our discussions next year? They hold the future of Christianity, of response to Jesus” teaching. Hopefully there is one!

Patti : This is my first session. I found you because I have been searching. I've really enjoyed it, and would like to attend the next sessions.

Barbara : In Bible study this morning we pondered "Jesus dying for our sins" and that this doesn't ring true nor is it helpful. Also, we questioned the need for consecrated elements for eucharist especially at a distance as during covid separation,

Houston : The general response of humans to existence is a distrust of life and Reality. We do and have encountered those who trust and are loyal to the Totality of Existence. As the poet says, we occasionally see Grace in a human face.

Jed Holdorff : I'm feeling compelled to share that recent research is suggesting that the Lascaux caves were painted by women. :)

Jackie - SG21/PDX : So much good food for thought. I am always nourished and challenged in a loving way from conversations with Marianne. I am Catholic who finds many aspects of the Catholic religion challenging. I am drawn and formed by the Catholic ritual, commitment to social justice and the community I have formed through my faith. One of the ways that I think of God is the last line of the poem Natural Theology by Kelly Cherry: "...God grows everywhere, like grass."

Beth & Tom B : Karl Rahner said that Christianity must become mystical or it will die.

Christopher J. : From Chrs A-S: to get the notion of the "away from" concept of "A" is to pronounce it differently, using the long sound of "a" as "AH"- followed by "theism etc. we can get away from the "negativity of the word atheism. That "AH" occurs in many other words in common use and is accepted in that "away from" aspect.

Virginia : Marcus - a channel for God's wisdom!

Clee To Meaghan (she/her)(privately) : These sessions have been wonderful... please thank Marianne for us. Marcus changed our lives...

Meaghan (she/her) To Clee(privately) : I will of course pass that along. Thank you.

Celia : Welcome to the Calvin/Knox/Mr. Rogers cohort!

Robert : I see religion as one response that deep impulse to the mystery of life and existence. I, as an atheist, have spent my whole life responding to that impulse. But it has been a non-theistic understanding of that mystery. I was taught to not personify my experience of life and existence (reality?)

Evelyn : Great book "How to Pray Without Talking to God"

yolanda To Meaghan (she/her)(privately) : Thanks for this. Opportunity. ..I will forward an email I wrote to Marianne...but didn't get a response. This is so overwhelming when so many of us are hungry for answers or at least direction.

Robert : My take on prayer is that prayer does not change things. I believe it changes me.

Patti : I use prayer to empty myself to God. When I am empty I can experience God. I can let God take me over.

Marianne : A prayer of thanks is useful. This pandemic has been pretty awful for many but... thank God for Zoom and for these meetings...

Sara : I understand!

Sara : My dad died two days before I started chemo.

Joan : Need to leave this wonderful discussion. Thank you so much Marianne! I am newer to this series and very much look forward to this fall when it will resume. I wish you and all in this community well.

Donna : I know very little about quantum physics and would like to learn how it can shape our discussions of God and existence. Any reading recommendations?

Alexis : Re prayer: God whose love and joy are present everywhere/can't come to visit you/unless you aren't there. - Angelus Silesius (1624-77)

Sam : Taize

Donna : I greatly look forward to resuming these nourishing and enlightening learning experiences.

Robert : Read Richard Feynman's books for non physics laypeople.

Vicki : So well, Joan! You speak for me as well regarding issues with liturgy and language. Thank you for your insight and honesty.

yolanda : I crave a liturgy that integrates contemplative ritual with this openness to an unconditional God/Event.

Bette : I am totally with you Joan, in everything you said. Thank you!

Robert : Amy-Jill Levine asks: was the crucifixion a victory or a defeat? Who won, God or Caesar?

Virginia : We have a monthly "Open Table" liturgy on zoom in Ireland for which the predidcer cor each occasion creates a liturgy for the day - using something old but something new. Not much empire!

Alexis : is there a way to disconnect Holy Eucharist from substitutionary atonement?

Harriet : When I begin a prayer, it is often with "Holy and gracious God."

Marianne : Taizé is the most wonderful place. Liturgy, peace, help, beauty, the language, the ecumenism... just wonderful!

Joan : Totally agree with you Patti! Prayer has always started first with a grateful heart and then whatever flows from that is prayer for me! The way we love each other, absolutely!

Valerie : What is the difference between intercessory prayer and petitionary prayer?

Mary : Mary Oliver's poem Praying

Alexandre : Taizé also came to my mind ...

Sara : Thank you so much!

Richard : My prayer doesn't change God it changes me.

jharrer@ieee.org : Many thanks to all who work to bring this to us.

Sally : Thanks Jeffrey - well said

jharrer@ieee.org : I will continue with my support.

Eileen : I will totally contribute. YES!!

Alexis : continuing my support!

Clee : Thank you so much for this. It is wonderful... we can't let this go.

yolanda: So grateful for these talks. Thanks so much!

Sara : Blessings and Namaste. We must live the Ubuntu Life!

Emily : I love that you continue to be hopeful for the continuation of Christianity. Thank you so much for these wonderful sessions sharing your insight, intelligence and articulateness.

Loren : Spooky action at a distance is another term for quantum entanglement. Perhaps prayer, or the experience of prayer is also an experience of quantum entanglement. The term is not important. But, thank God for the experience we have shared together.

Laura : Amen!

Vicki : Thank you, Marianne and Jeff, for another wonderful conversation. I'm so very glad to have found you and to be able to connect with you and so many like minded lovers of God and Jesus. Best wishes, Vicki Cyr

Sandi : Thank you!

Dan : Thank you Amen

Carole : Thank you so much, Marianne,

Virginia : Thanks so much for these sessions. Looking forward to seeing you all again in September.

Cheryl : Yolanda..you are not alone here in Central Oregon...Peace and support. There are many who feel the same way...Like the Mothers and Fathers of the Desert tucked themselves away to keep that core that called alive in time of change and confusion.

Jackie - SG21/PDX : Yolanda, check out St. Andrew Catholic Church livestream mass at 9:30 on Sunday morning. It is progressive Catholicism at its best.

Jackie - SG21/PDX : St. Andrew is in NE Portland.

Meaghan (she/her) : If we cannot get to your questions today, please leave them in the chat- or email Marianne through the website! Thank you.

Sherin Ruth Jackson : louis MacNeice

Meaghan (she/her) : I will keep the chat open until 11:40 if anyone wants to add anything here.

Jackie - SG21/PDX : Blessings.

Sherin Ruth : last line of Thalassa Put out to sea ignoble comrades Your record may be noble yet Butting through scarps of moving marble. The harwhale dares us to be free. By a high star our course is set. Our end is Life. Put out to sea

Sherin Ruth : Louis MacNeice Thalassa last stanza

Deb : Such a blessing to be with you all these many months.....thank you Marianne....your sharing is a gift❤️