

November 13, 2021 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

jeanne: Also from Northfield, MN - Good morning

Jennifer: Hello from Rockville, MD (near Washington DC)

Eileen: Hello from Salisbury, CT

Virginia: ALTERNATIVE FACTS, from the White House, not so long ago!

lyn: Greetings from Lyn in Franklin, Massachusetts

Jim: Is better to say that everything is up to us or up to God?

John: What ever one says: "It is up to us" or "It is up to God", neither is doing very well right now.

Jim: Why are Christians so afraid to say the a God separate from who we are doesn't exist? Is believing in a fantasy Heaven where you live forever after death with God and Jesus that important?

Jim: The God in me greets the God in you, Namaste. It's the location of God that is all important.

Jackie: Was Jesus a post modernist before his time?

KATHLEEN: Even Pre-Modern, Modern and Post-Modern are categories. Language confines and liberates, always subject to revision.

Marianne: I really appreciate what you say. It seems to me that evolution of the species, including our own, leaves previous philosophical behind, but still included in the background that we base our thinking about. Similarly, the Christian calendar calls for very traditional stories to be recelebrated and I wonder how we ought to be able to review these celebrations in the light of evolutionary thoughts. If religions are human creations, - and clearly they are - then so is God. Then how do you look at Advent and Christmas as it is the next season in this new understanding of human thinking?

Tom: I am interested in hearing how the categories of enlightenment, modern, and post modern are responses to what came before and what that says about our seeking/understanding of the

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sacred.

Steve: What was the name of the writer that Marianne referenced ... Denise _____? _____

Ed: How can we constructively deconstruct Christianity? Those who have institutional power or are comfortable in the modern narrative are not likely to change. What practical steps can we take to restructure the Christian narrative in a way that enables human flourishing?

Jeffrey: Denise Levertov

Steve: Thanks!

Kjell: We celebrate Christmas, Easter, and other Christian holidays as focal points for thinking about the meaning of the story, not the newspaper account of the event.

Eileen: So interesting to me to hear Theo growling during MB's words.

KATHLEEN: These categories are human inventions. It would seem that there have always been spiritually gifted beings who have broken through any categories. Liberators of being in many religious traditions.

Samuel: Can this poem be shown ?

Meaghan (she/her): We will be posting the poem during the closing, and we can post it when we upload the video to the website this next week

Meaghan (she/her): Thank you

Alexandre Villela: Very nice to hear your reflections, Marianne. Many thanks!

Susie, she, hers, her: How do we overcome the oppression of the "empire" as a trauma to accept this new light. I crave it but feel captured.

Jackie (she/her) - PDX: Good morning, Marianne. It's always lovely to spend time with you. I love how you used particle physics to illuminate how we may experience faith. I have been interested in the intersection of quantum physics and faith/our experience of God for some time.

Lilli: it was actually Prathia Hall who had the dream. <https://bjconthehill.medium.com/she-had-the-dream-the-freedom-faith-of-prathia-hall-a629d0394830>

Robin: Interesting that you think our generation is the one that sees glimpses of what is soon to be born. We were the generation who in the 60' and 70's thought we had another vision...in the church also...

Jackie: Excellent explanation of some very difficult topics about which I have struggled to understand.

Brad: I appreciate this discussion. I especially liked the poem by Denise Levertov. I read poems to my mother who has memory loss. She visibly expresses appreciation of poetry. I will definitely share this beautiful poem with her. Many thanks!

Stephen: Super confirming to what I've been saying for decades and will deliver in a week at a UU church as a sermon!

halandmarti: Robin Kimmerer in speaking of her book, "Braiding Sweetgrass" calls it Restorytelling.

Virginia: I wonder how people think "telling the story again anew" will work out in terms of parish worship - or perhaps new styles of worship. Any thoughts?

Emily: Loved Marianne

halandmarti: Kimmerer again: Restory=ation

Emily: Loved Marianne's process of review of the development of thought as we move through ways of knowing to come to a deeper understanding

Jennifer: I think part of this is that we must deconstruct ourselves as listeners and shapers of meaning - that is part of being responsible as Christians - what are our biases and assumptions? I think too that part of this must involve a taking responsibility for what Christianity has been and the harms it has done - because many see it through that lens. Quite a tall order - but great to find the opportunity in all that.

Marianne: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/12/reflection-song-of-simeon.html>

Rebecca: Right on talk. I am reminded of the time the disciples were in the darkness after Jesus death and how disorienting that was for them. Death on a cross is horrific and I think they went into hiding. Everything they had was gone or so they thought. I am fascinated they



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rebounded. Everything that used to work is not working. To die is to live. To live is to die

Houston: Theologian Langden Gilkey said the rise of the evangelical movement in the 30's and 40's was an antidote to the fear of the loss of absolutes (post modernism and relativity))

Marianne: How about the granddaughters meeting the puppy :-)...

Eileen: Yes, Jennifer!

Dan: Thank you for what has been said, we have to be.

Jim: Christianity biggest problem is that it has 40,000 denominations.

Rebecca: Take the Christian story and make it secular.

Peggy: One important understanding I gained from Education for Ministry is the concept of "Both/And) . I see it in almost everything and every creation in the world.

Beth & Tom B: Nature as subject, not object...Thomas Berry.

Donna: Would deconstructionism include a detachment to the word, "Christianity" and be open to God and "humans" in terms of quantum physics and a radical, inclusive vision goodness, kindness, being and what is possible. I don't know much about quantum physics but confess that I find the label of Christianity limiting

Peggy: How we experience reality can be shown by the picture that some see as a young woman and at other times or other people see as an old hag.

David: the most relevant binary of modernity I think is natural/supernatural, with the privileged term being natural. So that supernatural gets seen as violating the natural laws. This category is not just something we think. We live in the world this way. So trying to "deconstruct" it is an ongoing and ever failing task. I think that novelists are better at doing so than almost anyone else because they can imagine the interpenetration of is dichotomy to such an extent that the dichotomy disappears. Dostoyevsky is a good example. If I were teaching theology I would use Brothers Karamazov as primary text and theologians as commentary...interpretation.

Stephen: strange entanglement= UU's 7th Principle, interwoven web of all life and creation also borrows from quantum physics

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Emily: We can see a seed change into a plant with the use of a camera being on for a long time. Is there anything different between that and that a particle changes to a wave under observation? Just a thought....

Lynn: There is a new book out that may have a lot to say about this. I've not gotten it yet but have seen reviews. Authors are Graeble and Withrow. Title: The Dawn of Everything. They found archeological evidence that there were large cities in Meso America that did not have hierarchical structures: Priests, Presidents, Senators, etc. and this changes the whole narrative about human evolution and the belief/assumption that what we have now is the only way to do civilization. Can't wait to dig into this one!

Ken: "Quantum Theology" by Diarmuid O'murchu is a book that addresses some of what is being discussed.

Peggy: A six minute meditation on advent that might help answer Marianne's question.

Peggy: Here is a six minute mediation on advent that I think helps answers Marianne's question <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POAu-09Hg2o>

Marianne: Peggy - many thanks. I'll look that up.

Meaghan (she/her): Another book is "Gathering Moss" is wonderful by Kimmerer too! And I enjoyed Rooted as well.

sheila: must leave. fantastic morning. sheila insd

Meaghan (she/her): Thank you, Sheila

Susie, she, hers, her: >so if we go back to the early church of the Jesus movement what will grow now?

Peggy: Thank you for the dirt work and cigar

Lilli: <https://www.amazon.com/After-Jesus-Before-Christianity-Exploration/dp/0063062151>

Lilli: @Susie After Jesus Before Christianity explores the diversity of the early church before it was imperialized

Susie, she, hers, her: Thanks Lilli



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Candace: Thank you for your hopefulness!!!

Rebecca: Always err on the side of hope

Lilli: David Orr: hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up

Cheryl: Feet planted firmly in mid air.....

Mary: Those people are right here!

Lilli: The Gospel of Mary and Thunder Perfect Mind - the vision after the death of Jesus

Sandy: Thank you Marianne for providing a holograph with the discussion of modernity and post modernism along with structuralism. I needed that "gentle" framework and being able to use this to move ideas in and out of it to think more deeply about where we have been and where we want to live in hope for the future.

jim: Within each of us is the need to create, to transform the viciousness and violence in life into sunlight and peace.

Marianne: Many thanks. I have to leave you now... To next time!

Jennifer: Rebecca, In times like you describe, I go back to the (Cherokee?) creation myth, where there is no land, and all animals are swimming in the water, and take turns diving under the water to try to find something to bring back that they can stand on - so in dark times of my soul, I think to myself, I am just earthdiving right now - diving into the dark and cold, running out of breath, but with my hand reaching out for the something that I just know has to be there, and that if I bring it back to the surface, it will spread and spread and provide something for everyone to stand on.

Emily: Many thanks from me too. Wonderful session!

Candace: Thank you!!!

Melanie: What was the Isaiah text Marianne read in the opening?

Brad: Grateful!



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Linda: Thank you

Lynn: Thank you so much!

Pat's iPad: Thank you - I feel much hope!

Doris: From: Doris Mason. Baskets of gratitude to all.

Samuel: 1997

Lynn: Why is the name of the book with sayings of Jesus and the Buddha?

Peggy: The parallell

Nancy (she/her): Jesus and Buddha: the Parallel Sayings

Peggy: It is a beautiful book

Samuel: Jesus and Buddha- The Parallel Sayings, 1997

Lynn: Thank you!

Filomena: Hope

Susie, she, hers, her: Peace!

Filomena: I thank you. God wanted me to be here today.