

December 11, 2021 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

Linda: Hi from snowy Northfield MN. So grateful to be here again. Thank you

Harry: From Tupelo, Ms

Jennifer: Greetings from Rockville, MD, near Washington DC.

Eileen: Hi from Salisbury. CT

Alexis: hello from New Hampshire!

Kake: "And I feel fine"

jyyerby: Greetings from windy and wet, Portland, OR.

Janet: Greetings from Canada's east coast

Marianne: Advent - same radical as in adventure

Clee Sealing: Fine

Marianne: I wonder if we could not see Advent as the Adventure that is to come. This would suggest that humanity - or perhaps rather a section of it - is to engage on this 'being with Jesus' or 'adopting Jesus as our example', other civilisations having their own spiritual traditions.

Celia: Amazing how Paul anticipated John Caputo!

brant: Marianne always does such an excellent job of incorporating the insights of Marcus in her own language as she introduces them in her opening talk. She is quite amazing.

Cynthia: And the kingdom of God is found in those with mental illness

Kjell: Jesus wants us to think outside the box with respect to the normal Greco-Roman concept of the social structure and the way we interact with each other.

Kake: What the "king" language stirs in me is an image of somebody/thing big enough to bust down the powers of this world. (Through revolution or evolution or whatever).

jim: Can we understand the language of “Advent” and Jesus by looking through Jewish eye’s? The very word “Christian” never appears in the Gospels (Mathew, Mark, Luke and John)?

Rebecca: Unconditional is uncomfortable. Am I really unconditionally loved? Jesus said. Yes you are God’s beloved. How do we “socialize” love?

Kake: @jim — good question

norm: My comment on your thoughts; Brilliant!

Harry: An “event” implies a process not an event once in time but an event that occurs within each individual?

Kake: Talk about. The King!

Jennifer: For me the Incarnation is one of the most powerful things to contemplate in Advent - not the notion that Jesus is Divine, but the idea that God so wanted us to be sure that God understood our human experience that God became human. There’s also something powerful about the idea that God can be seen through a human medium - through Jesus, and through us.

David: I appreciate the time spent on the words and sounds of our hymns. Most Christians around the world sing their theology. That’s how we carry our belief in body, mind and spirit. Thank you.

Jim: The only truth in the birth stories is that Jesus was born, probably not on the 25th, so why are we trying so hard to save these stories. Actually I feel they detract from Jesus’ actual message. Why can’t Christmas just be when we honor this wonderful messenger.

Rebecca: I have everything I need. Just as it is. If I am a leper I am loved as a leper.

Ken : The center of gravity in Christianity, which includes the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, resides in the literal. Where does hope for change reside?

robin.: I struggle with the capitalistic super holiday Christmas has become, the angry divisiveness in our culture vs. the call of Jesus...

Ed: I would like to know why and how the second coming of Christ became the dominant message in Christianity? Is it related to hierarchy, power and authority? Are there Christian theological narratives that developed differently alongside the theology of 2nd coming?



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Beth & Tom B: There seems to be a great resistance to adult education among Christians. How do we move the community to this Deeper understanding?

Paul D: "not an supernatural intervention but a response to the call to embody hope into the world" This stirs me to look again at how Jesus taught us to do this

Jennifer: Advent for me marks my transition from a childlike faith to a more adult faith - letting go of the idea that the stories of Jesus' birth happened exactly as written was something I only grappled with as an adult, and was strangely heartbreaking - yet opened me up to a new way to see Jesus' mission and the courage it must have taken for him to declare it without that kind of anointing at birth.

claire: My Advent season is very personal because both my parents died on December 4, at the beginning of the season. and both my children were born in the Advent and Christmas season. so for me, it's the time of the Stuff of being alive, the depths and the joys. The light of the world language and the actual candles in the darkness of winter and grief to me make this the most emotional season of each year. now I am almost 80 and I see the season as death and birth in a way that is new

claire: There is a wonderful hymn in the African American tradition called "Jesus the Light of the World"

Rebecca: I always put a menorah in my nativity

Alexis: Amy Jill Levine's Light of the World traces the birth of Jesus through stories that connect it to the Hebrew Scriptures. Excellent reading!

Kake: @Beth and Tom B - Education through Ministry offers an excellent overview of contemporary Biblical scholarship as well as an overview of the horrifying history of Christianity as well as contemporary theology. You might check into the site at Sewanee

jim: What is the name of the hymn?

Eileen, Conn.: Jesus the Light of the World

Carol: Kathleen Battle sings Jesus the light of the world on her CD Angels' Glory

Doris: In our liturgy we are each Sunday asking God to HEAR us,. My challenge is for me to



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HEAR. I like restating the season to "EVENT". Someone suggested to pay attention to my skills and hunches and my insights. He suggested that these may be God talking to me in every present EVENT. So 365 days of Christmas.

David: But, we must not forget the Christians in the Southern Hemisphere where it is summer!

Kake: I have to admit that the continuing beauty of the Peanuts Christmas special as well as Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice ... had a lot to do with my return out of atheism to Christianity. Because showbiz was part of my way back, showbiz is part of my understanding of the stories of this season. And there's a deep reality to the biz that is show.

jim: David...YES!

Mary: Always coming and already here, both

Mary : Could you put the books that were mentioned by Marcus in the chat so we can get them?

Ruth FL: so every time a child is born it is a "hope" event! It is a messiah event full of all possibilities.

vicky: Is the 'event' a journey through the event ...over and over infinitude?

Kake: Well, I know how I did it in my classrooms

Marianne: The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth by Marcus J. Borg

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faith: Advent and event have the same root - venire - to come.

claire: Advent songs are usually in a minor key, or a tonal variation of the major keys

Peggy: Wonderful; dream! I do believe that we experience the second coming in our hearts

Br. Bill: In the OT the Israelites begged God to give them a king. That was probably due to what they saw in the society around them.

Cheryl: I find that funny that our view of God has been the favored way to picture God. God told



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the people the problems with kings and advised them not to establish one. So what did they do, they crowned Saul as their king. Go figure.

Br. Bill: They believed the king would give them defense from invasion, guaranteed food supply, etc. Their insecurity was behind it I believe.

Alexis: God also says that the king will bring the Israelites nothing but trouble.

Kake: 1 Samuel 8:11- 22 god through Samuel warns what a king will do.

Ed: Kake: I am a graduate of Education for Ministry (EfM) and recommend it.

Kake: @Ed me too

Sandra: What was the title of the book that Marianne has with her?

Marianne: After Jesus Before Christianity: A Historical Exploration of the First Two Centuries of Jesus Movements

Alexis: I am an EFM grad from many years ago and found it primarily an indoctrination process. It did, however inspire me towards more self education.

Marianne: What does EFM stand for?

Kake: Alexis — I'm sorry you found it that way. A lot depends on the small group and the amount of freedom. We have a group with people of very different theologies.

Kake: Education for Ministry

Alexis: Education for Ministry

Ed: Alexis: My experience with EfM was very good and opened my eyes to critical thinking rather than indoctrination.

Marianne: Thank you.

Gary : Thank you so much, as always, for the wonderful prompts and invitation to think beyond our traditional unquestioned beliefs



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Sandy: Please make sure you are muted, if you are not speaking, there is just a lot of household type noise. Thank you.

Alexis: There is a new iteration of EFM which one of my daughters is doing, and it is much different from the one I did back in the day

Clee Sealing: Thank you so much...

Samuel: a rare and precious experience today - many thanks

Andre: Gracias para la vda\\\\

kslack: This was such a beautiful session that resonated perfectly with my feelings this Advent. Thank you, Marianne!

vicky sovie: Most precious and affirming . Thank you

Sandra: Like to comment to Paper & Glue

Peggy: EFM taught me to always consider the "both/and".

Cheryl: Loved Ted Lasso. Our sport team when they make a mistake remind each of us to have the memory of a Goldfish. That is from "Ted Lasso." God has a memory of a Goldfish and remembers not our transgressions.

Cheryl: A gold fish has a memory about 10 seconds long.

jim: Yes...art provides a unique view upon the world and people everywhere!!

Jim: God is Connection

vicky: Thank you for Hope of the 'Mystery in my heart' phrase

Peggy: It is reaffirming to be in a community where my understanding of the mystery and faith are shared.

Suellen: Thank you so much, Marianne - lots to ponder

Jim: The experience is the oneness of humankind