



## November 12th, 2022 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

- [Participant] : Grace and Peace y'all from WV!
- [Participant] : Where is everybody from? Let's say "hi".
- [Participant] : Good afternoon from Tampa, FL!
- [Participant] : There we go!
- [Participant] : A snowy Saturday greeting from central Indiana.
- [Participant] : So...do we stay Christian?
- [Participant] : Rain here, lots and lots of rain. Nonstop. 48 hours worth.
- [Participant] : Good evening from Portstewart on the north coast of Northern Ireland
- [Participant] : Fort Morgan, Colorado, USA
- [Participant] : Greetings from chilly Springfield, Missouri
- [Participant] : Advent will soon be upon us. And with it, winter.
- [Participant] : Good morning from Meridian, Idaho!
- [Participant] : Greetings from Maine
- [Participant] : HELLO The Woodlands, Tx
- [Participant] : greetings from Barrie, Ont, Canada
- [Participant] : Halifax Nova Scotia here....Pax et Lux
- [Participant] : Hello from Veedersburg INDIANA, USA
- [Participant] : Greetings from West Linn, Oregon!
- [Participant] : Greetings from Kernersville, NC
- [Participant] : Good day from Carrollton, GA.
- [Participant] : Blue sky over Banks, Oregon and can see the new snow on Mt. Hood
- [Participant] : Good morning/ Buenos dias from Bend, OR
- [Participant] : Good morning to everyone from Ft. Collins, Co.
- [Participant] : Cyfarchion! / Greetings! from Wales, UK on a cold, damp and dark November evening!
- [Participant] : And greetings to you! I'm in Binghamton NY. C[Participant]dy here.
- [Participant] : Good frosty Morning from Aberdeen SD
- [Participant] : Hello from Tucson, AZ! Sunny skies here.

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[Participant] : sun just came out in Maine

[Participant] : Greetings from Nebraska!

[Participant] : Hello from Hamilton Ontario Canada

[Participant] : Greetings from snowy Oregon!

[Participant] : Hi from Missouri

[Participant] : Good Morning from Washington

[Participant] : hello from Palm Desert, CA. linda

[Participant] : Hello from Eugene, OR!

[Participant] : Good morning from Denver, Colorado

[Participant] : Hi from Cape May, NJ!

[Participant] : Hello from western North Carolina

[Participant] : Good Morning, Portland OR

[Participant] : Hi from Pittsburgh PA

[Participant] : Please remember to keep yourself muted as you enter the Zoom room. Thanks!

[Participant] : Good morning from overly warm NH!

[Participant] : There are 2 parallel white lines that will enlarge the left side of the screen. Use your 'arrow' to move the lines to the right.

[Participant] : Bonsoir - good evening from a chilly Koksijde, on the seaside in Belgium.

[Participant] : Hello from Pendleton, OR

[Participant] : Hi from Boise, ID

[Participant] : Good morning from Tahoe, California

[Participant] : Hello from Hattiesburg, Mississippi

[Participant] : Good afternoon from Canada's very mild yet rainy east coast!!

[Participant] : Blessings from sunny Bellingham, WA

[Participant] : Good morning from Portland, OR.

[Participant] : Hello from Claremore, OK

[Participant] : Good morning from Torrance, CA

[Participant] : hello from Edinburgh.

[Participant] : Hi from Sequim, Washington

[Participant] : Good morning from Wayzata, MN.

[Participant] : Hello from Cobb County, Georgia

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[Participant] : Hello from Palmetto Bay FL, Steve & Heidi

[Participant] : Good morning/afternoon from Raleigh, NC

[Participant] : Good to see you're on the evening side of the Atlantic [Participant]!

[Participant] : Good morning from Allenspark CO

[Participant] : Can you turn on closed captioning for us oldies

[Participant] : Hi! from White Bear Lake, MN

[Participant] : Blessings from snowy Central Oregon. We will enjoy this chat by the fire.

[Participant] : Greetings from Manhattan, KS

[Participant] : Greetings from Lyn in Franklin, Massachusetts on this bright, windy day.

[Participant] : and from Omaha on a c[Participant]dy, windy, flurries-day

[Participant] : Hi from La Grande, Oregon

[Participant] : Hello from Bemidji, MN,,,

[Participant] : Greetings from Whitefish Bay Wisconsin where we have overcast skies at 36 degrees F and looking forward to this 2d Saturday to bring a bit of warmth and light to my soul

[Participant] : Hi from ye olde country - Kent county - Rusthall village

[Participant] : Hello from Tucson, AZ

[Participant] : Sounds like the Church of Christ!

[Participant] : Please ask Brian to turn his column up a little

[Participant] : Greetings from Rockville, MD near Washington DC

[Participant] : hello from Buffalo,NY

[Participant] : Please ask Brian to speak louder.

[Participant] : Ruth, I think the issue is that he sometimes turns away from the mic as he speaks. Probably can't do anything about that.

[Participant] : If we believe that "God" created the universe, why would we not want to continue to try to understand how this creation happened instead of trying to force everyone to accept the understanding of creation that was accepted 2000+ years ago when we had not yet developed the tools to understand and unravel this mystery in which we live.

[Participant] : Isn't fundamentalism essentially a reaction against The Enlightenment or modernity?

[Participant] : Fr. Richard Rohr: Order, Disorder, Reorder

[Participant] : Ditto on Richard Rohr

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[Participant] : I am reading of that now [Participant]. In a companion guide to the Universal Christ. Yea, Fr. Richard!

[Participant] : — Also true in human development: equilibrium, disequilibrium, equilibrium.

[Participant] : Jack Caputo Quote: Truth is a movement between consensus and dissent, between normal, standard received understanding and the possibility of something new. It's never nailed down. In hermeneutics we say things don't have an essence, they have a history...Absolute truth is an interpretation that forgets its an interpretation and therefore it takes itself to be unappealable.

[Participant] : I think that idea of being expelled is only one part. If you prescribe to the fundamentalist Christian notions that you have to believe certain things then you are afraid to "disbelieve" because you will go to hell and are not a "Christian" as the fundamentals define being a Christian.

[Participant] : Sorry about the plastic bottle. I am trying to do better (and failing a lot...thank goodness that we are all messed up...LOL)

[Participant] : Metaphor . . . There's a reason Jesus taught in parables.

[Participant] : Why is it so important that we define ourselves as anything? Why is it so difficult to ground ourselves in Mystery?

[Participant] : Empire always benefits. That was why Jesus was anti-empire. And they killed him for it.

[Participant] : I think people are afraid to ground themselves in a Mystery is that their lives are chaotic and they need a fixed reference point for their life.. With Marcus, I believe that we need to ground ourselves in believing and not in believing.

[Participant] : "All us hippies have lost our hair. Now we're scattered everywhere. When, oh, when are we gonna come home?" (song lyrics)

[Participant] : I had to leave being a cultural Christian.

[Participant] : Is the point here that we find a sense of ground in the midst of chaos?

[Participant] : How do you deal with your former colleagues and/or family members who are still believing in inerrant and literal Biblical stance?

[Participant] : "The Branding of Christianity is Problematic" .. well put! And so true!

[Participant] : The word itself (Christianity) means too many different things to too many people. Which form is the one worth remaining for?

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[Participant] : I am also heard it said that doubt is not the opposite of faith, that CERTAINTY is the opposite of faith.

[Participant] : Isn't the fundamental challenge with Biblical literalists is that Bible is NOT the dictated word of God and that the New Testament is a collection of interpretations of who/what God "is" and who Jesus was?

[Participant] : Great summary: Doubt is not the enemy. Authoritarianism is.

[Participant] : Back in the '60s Time had an article on Christianity in which a nun said that doubt was the beginning of faith. If you have no doubts you miss the opportunity to question and dig deeper into what are the truths you want to build your life around.

[Participant] : Thank God for doubt!!!

[Participant] : I have no doubts AND I have no certainties.

[Participant] : Seems to me Christianity should be more about how we behave rather than what we "believe". I have left behind most the theology and focused instead on the "love your neighbor" part.

[Participant] : Too much blood is spill

[Participant] : Back to Jesus' command: love one another as I have loved you, as God loves you.

[Participant] : In white Christian Nationalism, gullibility and fear have met greed and power, much to the detriment of the country.

[Participant] : Perhaps in a world that is not interested in listening, the answer does not live in words and beliefs. Perhaps being a non-anxious presence witnessing as peace in the midst of chaos? Perhaps standing up in a school board meeting filled with threats and violence, and saying nothing....just wondering.

[Participant] : The One immersing out of diversity...what a beautiful vision , that!

[Participant] : Amen!!!

[Participant] : "Othering" is anti-Love.

[Participant] : We cannot continue as different tribes.

[Participant] : This was the learnings of "Wakanda Forever"

[Participant] : Love is not the same as One, more like connected.

[Participant] : Interesting discussion. If we believe in God as some deity, we have a problem.

But if we believe that God is a human invention, whatever shape it takes, then we can begin to

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trust the human mind and let go of the childish beliefs. Whatever we believe about God, we can interpret Him either as a controlling parent or a benevolent parent who wishes for his children to grow and become adults with their own evolved or involving thoughts and beliefs and their responsibility for developing their own thinking and conclusions. This then leads to a fear of lack of control in the people or groups in authority. Big problem for institutions. But it ought to provide the one thinking it through with a calm and satisfaction about how we progress and what we conclude. It will always be a personal journey because we can never really know where others are and how they negotiated the road to their conclusion.s.

[Participant] : Diversity is the color we put into the painting of life

[Participant] : If we believe that God inheres in every smallest part of all that is, then diversity/harmony are what they are, totally creative in an ongoing sense.

[Participant] : Isn't what we need a new overarching myth that incorporates the world religions and science and transcends them?

[Participant] : I'm thinking of George Lakoff's gloss of the right and the left - "nurturant parent" model vs. "strict father" model. How do we have a diversity that can have a solidarity in the presence of difference with a more authoritarian way of thinking that by its \*nature\* precludes the very possibility of diversity?

[Participant] : What McLaren just said is on target and pertains to our current conflicts in the world and Ukraine in particular. Few in this country will face this. Christian Nationalism and Nationalism in general prevent our facing this Reality and the flaws in American Imperialism - which Marcus talked about frequently.

[Participant] : At hand...within....

[Participant] : In response to [Participant], I would argue that when we are children, we have little independence of thought until we reach maturity or responsibility and then accountability for our own thoughts. We are all different and so either we agree to live in respect of each other in our differences as adults or we can agree to let others have authority over us. I think that is no longer acceptable to me.

[Participant] : Love the phrase "shattering your horizon of expectation."

[Participant] : Thank YOU Brian. Love your perspective.

[Participant] : Ditto!

[Participant] : [Participant] - well said!

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[Participant] : Christianity has been there before, with lack of love. Think of the Crusades, the Inquisition, some churches in the face of the holocaust.

[Participant] : All religions excel at being violent because the sin of the world and of humanity is violence

[Participant] : One of the highest compliments I ever received came from a young adult (30s) who had occasionally attended my Sunday school class in jr. high. He told his mom, "Evelyn taught us to think for ourselves."

[Participant] : The idea of enemy perpetuates violence as solution.

[Participant] : YES!

[Participant] : Keep the conversations going

[Participant] : Sin is self-serving, whether personal or institutional or political. Getting one's own way leads to violence when the other disagrees.

[Participant] : Come hear Brian with Diana Butler Bass and others at Southern Lights Gathering on MLK weekend in St. Simons Island, GA

[Participant] : Thank you Brian and [Participant] for this wonderful event

[Participant] : Please, speak more about penal substitutionary atonement

[Participant] : I agree!!!

[Participant] : why did God have to kill his own begotten son to forgive me? Is that God justifying violence/

[Participant] : [Participant] and Brian. Thank you so much for this conversation. Very helpful.

[Participant] : I Agree was to what [Participant] said

[Participant] : Jesus did not claim to be only son...but first of many brothers.

[Participant] : Will "the church" ever get past substitutionary atonement?

[Participant] : This has been wonderful. Thanks to your neighbor, Janine, for the heads up! Hope to see you again at Ring Lake Ranch soon, or in Belfast!

[Participant] : Jesus was not a Christian, he was a Jew, trying to open up those closed parts of his own tradition.

[Participant] : I believe that the advent of Jesus and the other great teachers of the axial age was an evolutionary event.

[Participant] : This session was a potent experience and very much appreciated.

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[Participant] : Isn't "The Way" taught by Christ simply a radical way of being in the world that places love above self, not a prescription to any fixed dogma?

[Participant] : This Life, Why Mortality makes us free - Martin Hagglund

[Participant] : Yes to [Participant]. Paul is the one who developed Christianity. For me, Jesus remains the second person of the Trinity.

[Participant] : Existential Physics! Scientific agnosticism is leaving the door open to eternal mystery...

[Participant] : Yay, [Participant].

[Participant] : Have a look at the YouTube talk by Martin Hagglund on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urXw0RfBP-o&t=15s>

[Participant] : Anselm made it popular around 1054.

[Participant] : Thank you!

[Participant] : thanks, Brian. very helpful.

[Participant] : Thank you, Brian, [Participant], and everyone here. Blessings to you all.

[Participant] : Thank you so much! Meaningful.

[Participant] : Thank you so much [Participant] and Brian!

[Participant] : Ist time checking into this group.....sorry I missed the initial presentation.....will look fwd to future presentations. (Pam in Michigan)

[Participant] : Thankyou [Participant] and Brian. Today's session was so enlightening.

[Participant] : Thank you [Participant] and Brian! Today was a chance to explore and celebrate a new way of looking at our faith.

[Participant] : Thanks to all, esp. those who listened and commented in response to the conversation!

[Participant] : Not knowing all things now opens our lives to the future and gives us something things to think about instead of thinking I have nothing more to learn and to grow. When you stop growing you die.

[Participant] : Peace and All Good Folx!!!

[Participant] : Thank you for the presentation. It has been very thought provoking.

[Participant] : thank you

[Participant] : Thanks for this great second Saturday

[Participant] : Wow, wow, wow....that was great....



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[Participant] : Oh [Participant], thank you for reminding me of this song!!! And FYI, it was the words of your dear husband that first rescued me from religious despair. I'm forever grateful

[Participant] : So much great food for thought. I appreciate this expansive view of God. I'm grateful that even as a young child my father who is Buddhist talked to me about God not fitting into a box.

[Participant] : I see this is being recorded ... I had to join a bit late. Will this recording of today's conversation be posted?

[Participant] : The recordings are usually available by the following Saturday.

[Participant] : Evelyn...they always post it on the website and YouTube.

[Participant] : Do not put Jesus and God into a box of your own construction. The finite can not be held by or do justice to the infinite

[Participant] : For every critical and difficult question there is a simple answer that is wrong.

[Participant] : [Participant], are we not by definition limited and so limited in our understanding of God and perhaps even Jesus?

[Participant] : Many thanks, [Participant] and Brian, for a most satisfying and challenging session.

[Participant] : "Images of God" for young children Marie-Helene Della

[Participant] : Delval

[Participant] : I so agree with Brian about the New Zealand Prayer Book, especially the Night Prayer, which I believe derived from UK priest Jim Cotter. But what about the Celtic tradition, exemplified in Iona, and currently the writing of its onetime warden John Philip Newell? Iona has great liturgy, and I have dev eloped a "Celticv Holy Communion" which is used experimentally here in the Church of Ireland. Maybe we could host J P Newell some time?

[Participant] : Yes by definition we are limited, but a box that is finite implies that we are rigid and not willing to grow our box.

[Participant] : Thank you so much!

[Participant] : [Participant]

[Participant] : [Participant], I am not sure that instead of rigidity, it does not foster greater exploration.

[Participant] : Thank you for a wonderful Saturday morning!

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[Participant] : I do believe all of our boxes have been opened a bit more today. thank you everyone.

[Participant] : We are close to the Singularity. Some of us might make it. LOL

[Participant] : [Participant] - Could you please alert [Participant] to my query re Celtic style Christianity, for future meetings?

[Participant] : Peace and All Good [Participant], Brian, and all!!!!

[Participant] : Thanks so much to every one. Have a good month!

[Participant] : Thank you [Participant] and Brian!@ Wonderful time!