

## December 10th, 2022 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

09:22:34 From [Participant] : welcome from Ottawa, Canada

09:23:02 From [Participant] : Good Morning from snowy and sunny Colorado

09:23:11 From [Participant] : A bit of static on that last song. It has passed and the next song was fine.

09:23:25 From [Participant] : Welcome to you, from West Linn, Oregon

09:24:27 From [Participant] : Welcome from Kernersville, NC from Ron Sigrist

09:36:08 From [Participant] : Is the little green person standing over Marianne's right shoulder the good angel or the bad angel?

09:38:07 From [Participant] : I would say that Kermit is definitely a good angel!

09:38:42 From [Participant] : Not sure that I would believe in angels, except as an imaginary interpretation, but this green figurine is cute...

09:39:00 From [Participant] : Thank you from rainy windy SF Bay Area.

09:39:51 From [Participant] : Focusing on winter solstice, as a portal to the universality of all the religions winter festivals and feast days.

09:40:47 From [Participant] : Great to join for the first time. Eating lunch right now...will turn on camera later.

09:49:58 From [Participant] : Perhaps the mixing of the religious with the commercial also makes the season complicated and confusing. When I was a child in Belgium, St Nicholas, the patron saint of children celebrated on 6th December, was the day that adults celebrated the day for children with presents. It was a school day and teachers gave children a special St Nicholas day biscuit, a spéculais. Same situation in Germany and the Netherlands. Not sure about the Nordic countries. Christmas was a religious festival only with midnight mass.

09:50:38 From [Participant] : speculoos or speculaus

09:57:44 From [Participant] : About 1776 wasn't there actually little celebration of Christmas ? Didn't the popular culture's celebratory and festival nature arise in the early Victorian period? I think the Quakers still tend to minimize it.

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- 09:59:14 From [Participant] : Scandinavian Xmas cookies are filled with spices such as nutmeg. Spices represent luxury and are connected to colonialism, as those spices were imported from the indies and other southern regions.
- 10:00:30 From [Participant] : Similar to the speculaus we got when we were children and still are produced in some European countries at this time of year.
- 10:07:12 From [Participant] : What role does “worship” play in the idol/icon idea
- 10:07:52 From [Participant] : I'm sorry that I'm late.
- 10:15:03 From [Participant] : To follow on from Marianne B is saying about the erroneous vision of Jesus as a strong man, could we follow on from that is being more realistic about the message that Jesus died for our sins, but rather that he was killed because he challenged the power that was.
- 10:16:41 From [Participant] : The full title and author of Strong Men, please.
- 10:17:13 From [Participant] : <https://www.norton.com/books/9780393868418>
- 10:18:05 From [Participant] : So sorry I've been prevented from joining you properly this evening. Much looking forward to next month's get-together.
- 10:18:20 From [Participant] : We do use the word "Worship" to describe liturgy.
- 10:22:54 From [Participant] : Puritans forbade any secular celebration of Christmas....just church as usual....nothing decorated or different!
- 10:23:37 From [Participant] : I appreciate your sharing your angst because it helps me not to feel so alone in my feeling of angst! I have Christmas history, too, that as affected this time of the year and I'm always pushing back to not feeling all that joyful. Always grateful however.
- 10:24:01 From [Participant] : Was one e're seeing American flags and the cross superimposed -a lot ( cross replaces stars)
- 10:24:52 From [Participant] : I share the angst....when talking to evangelical right-wing friends I am very aware that our views and experiences of Jesus have little in common...
- 10:25:00 From [Participant] : Hard to hear.
- 10:25:06 From [Participant] : you can't have a light without a dark to put it in
- 10:28:35 From [Participant] : For an exploration of the kind of love we are talking about and a god who is not omnipotent check out theologian Tom Oord's book Pluriform Love.

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10:33:41 From [Participant] : How do we define “strength”? This message of love, compassion, justice, equality and service as a “higher” way of being continues to resonate with so many worldwide...isn't this a kind of strength?

10:41:53 From [Participant] : Let's not forget that the dark being overcome by the light in terms of the seasons occur at different times in the northern and Southern Hemispheres. Christmas occurs in June in parts of our world.

10:46:08 From [Participant] : o come o come Emanuel....what do we think that means.

10:47:05 From [Participant] : Showing how people can change Jesus to a “Strongman Jesus” along the lines of Ruth Ben-Ghiat's Strongmen unlocks so many insights to my struggles. Thank you. I heard echoes of Jackson Browne's “The Rebel Jesus” as another voice

10:48:01 From [Participant] : Rebecca's brother David is a fabulous artist activist.

10:48:32 From [Participant] : That is the Light in the Darkness!

10:48:50 From [Participant] : could Jeff send link ?

10:50:00 From [Participant] : Isn't our “problem” with Jesus is that we have turned Jesus into God...”of one substance with the Father”. For most “christian” understandings, that is a God as Supreme Being. I am reminded of The Heart of Christianity (Marcus Borg). Would it not be enough to say that the real point of Christianity is “Loving God and Loving what God Loves”. And isn't that what Jesus was all about? How to love one another? Wouldn't that be enough- to love one another? And there's the rub....

10:50:22 From [Participant] : Jesus was not what was expected at the time

10:50:30 From [Participant] : I relate so much to the angst and sadness that permeates this time of year, and also find such feelings more and more carry through the years now... the general angst and uncertainty of these times. As a truth seeker, I can intellectually agree with letting go of a “strong man” persona of “ God”, but find it so difficult to lose a perpetual longing for the comfort of the existence something or “someone” personal / relatable. That seems to be a universal longing that intellectual exploration / pondering doesn't seem to douse.

10:53:05 From [Participant] : That window to God is an ICON. An icon (classic painted picture) is considered a way to get to and see the OTHER. I have considered Jesus and a functional icon to help contact that OTHER.

10:54:16 From [Participant] : God is in "the still small voice"

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- 10:54:22 From [Participant] : I'm finding Native American spirituality helpful in this arena-actually may be leading the way in parallel to today's discussion. Randy Woodley is compelling.
- 10:56:18 From [Participant] : PLEASE read TS Eliot's "Journey of the Magi."
- 10:58:18 From [Participant] : When will the recording of last month be available?
- 10:58:24 From [Participant] : Thank you, Marianne, for your willingness to be vulnerable in this space.
- 10:59:37 From [Participant] : Yes, Thank you Marianne. Great to meet all of you and listening to all the Wisdom. May we all bring the Divine along with us in our faithful doubts, questions, and wrestlings.
- 10:59:57 From [Participant] : Thank you!
- 11:02:19 From [Participant] : In Oaxaca there are processions just before Christmas and Posadas in the neighborhoods, knocking on doors, looking for the baby Jesus. Christmas was definitely a religious tradition. In Kampala, Uganda people got dressed up, packed a huge bag of sugar in the trunk of the car, visited extended family in the village and enjoyed a dinner together. Sugar was greatly valued by all. Prisoners evaluated their conditions on the basis of being given sugar
- 11:02:45 From [Participant] : Check out Wil Gafney's A Woman's Lectionary for the Whole Church ! Year A
- 11:04:38 From [Participant] : Another book/author who may be of interest—especially with the Roman Empire thread: mediterranean Mixing: Pagan, jews & Christians in the Roman Antiquity (Dr. Paula Fredriksen).
- 11:04:56 From [Participant] : Sorry for the missed capitals...Saturday typing—LOL
- 11:06:32 From [Participant] : When will the Brian McLaren recorded conversation be available?
- 11:09:30 From [Participant] : Last month's session with Brian McLaren is available at [marcusjborg.org](http://marcusjborg.org)
- 11:15:05 From [Participant] : Thank you!
- 11:18:08 From [Participant] : Christmas Oratorio: The Ballad of the Brown King, music by Margaret Bonds based on the poem by Langston Hughes.
- 11:19:03 From [Participant] : Deep deep gratitude
- 11:19:11 From [Participant] : possibility

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11:19:24 From [Participant] : soul centering  
11:21:11 From [Participant] : “Strength to love”