



January 14th, 202 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

[participant] : Grace and Peace from West Virginia! Bright Blessings to all!
[participant] : Light and Grace from Huntsville, AL!
[participant] : Blessings from San Diego
[participant] : Blessings from Oswego, NY
[participant] : Blessings from Richmond BC Canada
[participant] : Blessings and greetings from La Grande, Oregon
[participant] : Grace and peace to all of you, from Milwaukee.
[participant] : Greetings for Kingsville, Canada
[participant] : Here from Toledo Ohio! (It's 12:30 here...)
[participant] : Good evening from Letchworth Garden City in England
[participant] : Phoenix AZ here
[participant] : Greetings from wet and rainy Kensington CA (SF bay area)
[participant] : Hello from Teresa in Kansas City, MO
[participant] : Greetings from Nashua, NH!!
[participant] : Good morning from Oregon
[participant] : Hello from cold and snowy Ottawa, Canada
[participant] : Blessings from Phoenix!
[participant] : Hello everyone, deep blessings from Cape Cod.
[participant] : Hi there from Massachusetts
[participant] : Greetings from windy and rainy Sacramento, California
[participant] : Good morning from Nebraska
[participant] : Good morning from Portland Oregon
[participant] : Greetings from Kaukauna, Wisconsin
[participant] : May I have permission to record -- for personal review.
[participant] : Hello from gloomy Central Connecticut!
[participant] : Blessings from Saint Charles, MO
[participant] : Greetings! Go Dawgs!
[participant] : Hello from Asheville, NC!

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- [participant] : Good morning from Vancouver Island, Canada.
[participant] : Greetings from Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
[participant] : Greetings from soaking , wet Clayton, California
[participant] : Hello from rural Saskatchewan
[participant] : Hello from Springfield, MO
[participant] : Hi from Rochester, NY!
[participant] : Good morning from Spokane, WA
[participant] : Hello, from Madison, Wisconsin!
[participant] : Grateful in Moberly Missouri
[participant] : Hi from Southampton, UK
[participant] : Hello from Bethlehem, PA!
[participant] : Hello from Seattle WA
[participant] : Hello from Springfield, MO
[participant] : Warm hello from Sarnia, Ontario.
[participant] : Greetings from Texas
[participant] : Greetings from Asheville, NC
[participant] : Good morning from Hamilton ONtario.
[participant] : Hello from London, Ontario, Canada
[participant] : Ron Sigrist - Greetings from Kernersville, NC -
[participant] : Deep peace from Maryland
[participant] : Good morning from Carmel, CA
[participant] : good morning from Fairmont Hot Springs Bc Canada - ancestral land of the Ktunaxa nation.
[participant] : Hello from Eagle Idaho
[participant] : Hi from Fruita CO!
[participant] : From Boston (well, Milton, south of Boston)
[participant] : Good Morning from Maryland
[participant] : Hello from San Pedro California
[participant] : Harry & Ann Campbell from cold. Myrtle Beach SC
[participant] : Greetings from London, England
[participant] : Morning greetings from Dundas, Minnesota

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[participant] : Greetings from Virginia Beach VA
[participant] : greetings from Fort Wayne, Indiana.
[participant] : Hello from soggy Santa Cruz, California
[participant] : Good morning everyone! Please check to make sure you are muted when you enter the Zoom room. We are so glad you have joined us.
[participant] : Greetings from [participant] joining from Orcas Island
[participant] : Greetings from Arlington, Texas!!
[participant] : Greetings from Agnes Pángyánszky, Budapest, Hungary!
[participant] : Hello from Southwest Michigan
[participant] : hello from Maryland.....
[participant] : Good Morning from River Falls Wisconsin.
[participant] : Greetings from Asheville, NC.
[participant] : Hello from Ashtabula, Ohio
[participant] : Blessings from Portland Oregon in the Pacific Northwest!
[participant] : Good morning from Tucson, AZ
[participant] : Greetings from Halifax, Nova Scotia....
[participant] : Greetings from Edina, MN
[participant] : Hello from the wet and windy Big Sur coast.
[participant] : Morning from sunny but windy Colorado.
[participant] : Greetings from Indianapolis.
[participant] : Hello from San Angelo, Texas
[participant] : Hello from Maine
[participant] : Hello from NC—in the beautiful snow.
[participant] : Good morning from St. Paul MN! Sun is out!
[participant] : Ottawa Canada , Hello
[participant] : Hello from Pennsylvania!
[participant] : Goo morning from Rochester, NY
[participant] : Good morning from Colorado Springs, CO
[participant] : Good morning. St Petersburg FL
[participant] : Good morning from Dallas, TX.
[participant] : Hey everyone. From Winston-Salem NC

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[participant] : Good Morning from New Mexico
[participant] : Hey, from Townsend TN
[participant] : Hey from Sacramento
[participant] : good morning from Bonita Springs FL
[participant] : Hello from Ormond Beach, FL
[participant] : Hello from Gladewater,
[participant] : Hello from Toronto, Ontario Canada
[participant] : Gladewater, Texas
[participant] : Hello from Oakland CA
[participant] : Hello rom Ft. Lauderdale where iguanas are falling from the trees, brr!
[participant] : hello from Ault, Colorado
[participant] : greetings from snowy New Hampshire!
[participant] : Good Morning from Palm Springs, CA
[participant] : Hello from Boston
[participant] : Many churches may be closing but this group is an amazing and growing success.
This must be the largest gathering yet...
[participant] : Hi from Victoria BC
[participant] : Greetings from West Linn, Oregon
[participant] : Good Morning from Denver, CO.
[participant] : Hello from Portland OR
[participant] : Greetings from Portland, OR
[participant] : Greetings from Hollis, NH.
[participant] : Hello from Sheffield, England
[participant] : I once had the opportunity to talk with a pastor with Filipino heritage. This
seminary graduate not never heard of Barth or Tillich. That was a "revelation" of reality for me.
[participant] : Greetings from Houston, TX
[participant] : Hi From Madison, WI
[participant] : Hello from Portland, Oregon!
[participant] : I have no sound!!
[participant] : Greetings from Salt Lake City!
[participant] : greetings from Laurens, SC

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[participant] : Hello from London, England

[participant] : Hello from Canby Oregon

[participant] : Can anyone help me get the sound?

[participant] : Got it!!

[participant] : Just wondering about some sort of linking between participants from the UK

[participant] : To love!

[participant] : Hello from Charlottesville, VA!

[participant] : good morning from San Diego (usually from Portland)

[participant] : hello from Derbyshire UK

[participant] : Hello from Raleigh, NC

[participant] : Greeting from Eugene, OR

[participant] : Good morning from Whitefish Bay, WI where we have a beautiful, crisp, and sunny day. Blessings to all of you this morning!

[participant] : Greetings from West Grove, PA. I am a retired UMC pastor who spent the last 16 years as a professor of World Religions. I left the ministry in 1999 because I had too many questions that I felt like I lacked integrity behind the pulpit.

[participant] : Hello from Corvallis, Oregon! Blessings to All!

[participant] : Good morning from Redondo Beach, CA

[participant] : Greetings from Fort Collins, Colorado!!

[participant] : Good morning from Los Gatos, California!

[participant] : Good morning from Winston Salem, NC

[participant] : Greetings from Oceanside, CA

[participant] : My mother was born in 1924 in West Grove, PA

[participant] : So happy to hear and see you from my home in Maumee, Ohio!

[participant] : Good morning from stormy Sacramento CA!

[participant] : As our understanding of the Word/words changes over time how can we adequately and competently define God, heaven, hell and the devil today?

[participant] : Greetings from Sunny Portland, Ontario, Canada

[participant] : The God Nobody Knows

[participant] : Good Morning from balmy South Dakota 32 today! Sheila

[participant] : Greetings from sunny Roanoke Alabama.

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[participant] : Thank you, Marianne, for inviting one of my OTHER favorite explorers of these matters of the heart,

[participant] : I hear nothing, gogged in 3 times, no audio.

[participant] : [participant], did you check your volume settings?

[participant] : Stephen, you might also check your audio output settings under the Volume tab at the bottom; click on the ^

[participant] : The pastor Barbara is referencing is Scott Black Johnston of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian. His new book is Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice.

[participant] : The local church is emptying of money but often that's not true of the diocesan coffers. The Southern Ohio Diocese is flush with money, only behind NYC.

[participant] : For current "Evangelical" and "Biblical Literalists" appear (or are) growing and we don't seem to have a bridge between them and the view you have of described Christianity seems to be a dwindling viewpoint. What think ye?

[participant] : For a good example of owing your neighbor I strongly suggest seeing the new Tom Hanks movie, A Man Called Otto. It a movie about one mans journey from depression to loving his neighbors. It is a loving move that addresses what we face in growing old.

[participant] : What is the shift you have seen in your life/career?

[participant] : I wonder if you know about the movement called Wild Church? Creation and Celtic-centered, they mostly meet outdoors.

[participant] : When I worked for Quakers I trained in Godly Play. Now, as a story worker, I am working on a suite of stories called Hidden Voices that radically retell some moments in the new testament from the possible perspective of women, children and others. They are written to be told out loud.

[participant] : Sacred Nature-Karen Armstrong; Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul-John Philip Newell

[participant] : When I first came to an Episcopal church (from more evangelical years) I saw in the procession, the story played out for those who historically didn't read or were illiterate. The different seasons and symbols suddenly made sense. My eyes were opened after an upbringing very anti-Catholic. So wonderful!

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[participant] : ...put when we only feel the “full body experience” can lead to a road that denies the humanity of Gay people and how repenting and “believing in the “Lord Jesus” can be destructive of “Love”

[participant] : Where are the blacks & other than white anglo saxons? I see only one?

[participant] : Seeking consensus is perhaps a desire for control sometimes?

[participant] : Church of the Wild, Victoria Loorz

[participant] : Yes, [participant].

[participant] : What do you think of the reality the eucharist instead of a joyful loving experience is a penitential reinforcement of the evil of humanity

[participant] : I turned 80 this years—the same age as “old” people.

[participant] : Being 92 is cool

[participant] : Isn't it better to live your life for now rather than for later in heaven?

[participant] : My dad died a few weeks before his 75th birthday. I was relieved to reach 75!

[participant] : To keep up my gratitude, I've adopted a Bhutanese practice: 5x daily, say, "I am going to die." Keeps me sobered!

[participant] : BBT, Just wait until you hit your 80s. I find that keeping your sense of humor will keep you alive.

[participant] : Metaphysics without practice is a reductionist illusion, void of interconnection and a non-dualist reality. Repentance is a change of mind. Practice is born of a larger worldview. Metaphysics and practice are interdependence and is a dance of evolution.

[participant] : It seems the more I let go of, the more alive I become.

[participant] : If this is all we get, then live every single moment. If this is it, I won't know anyway. Pascal's Wager.

[participant] : Eternal life - I'd say that it is not the future but rather the past that still inhabits us. When I hear Marianne talk about Marcus, he is still present. His memory is present. I always think that eternal life is like Beethoven,

[participant] : Beethoven is dead but he lives on!

[participant] : Goosebumps. Well said, Marianne.

[participant] : I think you're articulating it VERY well!

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[participant] : I've been disabled since age 8 mos. due to polio. Feeling worthy of this life is so incredibly hard for me. I only seem to feel worthy when I reach out to love my God and my neighbors.

[participant] : Wonderful, Marianne, thank you! I'm 79 now.

[participant] : Jesus also talked mostly about this life.

[participant] : Why has neither of you mentioned Gratitude in relation to end-of-life?!

[participant] : We live on after death only In the memory of those whose life we touched.

[participant] : Thank you for saying what my heart has known

[participant] : as Marcus said, "we die into God".

[participant] : Hello Everyone from Portland, OR Connie

[participant] : Arsenic and Old Lace

[participant] : I think "this" is it in terms of our human-ness, because we are humans. But somehow, I think God will always "be". I, Filomena, will die, but God will continue, always.

[participant] : When I die and my body is transformed into its essential elements they will remain in a new way. So in that sense I will have eternal life and I won't know what "I am doing".

[participant] : With all you have said, which I agree with, how do we keep our churches alive? What will motivate people to gather as a community? For me, it is my lifeline, as it is for many others.

[participant] : Barbara sounds like an Agrarian. I wonder if she has read Wendell Berry? Local, communitarian, neighborly connection

[participant] : Question for them: is caring for rescue dogs of value as opposed to "people"?

[participant] : Friendship between people has nothing to do with the religion of either of them.

[participant] : Best conversation ever!

[participant] : My take-away: love ("God") is in the details.

[participant] : Great discussion. Thank you both. MJR

[participant] : Thank you! At 79, it is enough to invite a friend to share a pot of soup.

[participant] : Note: okay to be "resting in green pastures." No need to achieve, just all your God to love you

[participant] : We get right back to the simple messages of Jesus, don't we? Not intellection scholarship or arguments. Just be present before God, to yourself, to others in your life.

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[participant] : Really great conversation! I loved the book Holy Envy and loved the discussion between two very thoughtful grounded women

[participant] : I self-published The God Nobody Knows, but distribution is a figment of my imagination. Publicists want to help, but only for a significant investment.

[participant] : Thank you so much from a little island of the West Coast of Scotland, your books have been so very helpful, the doubts and affirmation I have needed questioning so much on my Presbyterian faith. Blessings.

[participant] : What island?

[participant] : Addressing an individual without a systemic approach denies the interconnection of reality. Jesus also overturned tables in the temple.

[participant] : Or shall we challenge to see God as a parent and creator?

[participant] : Wonderful session... thank you!

[participant] : I was sitting in a worship experience in a church that would close and said to myself "I will miss this" and heard a voice, not mine, say "So will I."

[participant] : Susie you sound like an OT Prophet

[participant] : Thank you all speakers and questioners for vulnerability. Touches me on a deep level.

[participant] : [participant], Your experience is very striking. Thanks.

[participant] : Seems to me that we may indeed be following the commandment "Love your neighbor as yourself" and that is why culture/society is so messed up ... we love ourselves horribly and then we love our neighbors the same. When we can see our own worth, we will see our neighbor's.

[participant] : [participant], As a devoted member of a small struggling church that may not survive, your comment Brings tears to my eyes. Thank you.

[participant] : Christian pagan. Aren't we all?

[participant] : Susie, loving is loving.

[participant] : Hello everyone, I graduated from a pioneering interfaith Seminary called the Chaplaincy institute that supports the pluralism discussed...what a gift at age 68. Love the opportunity of its expansion in the midst of this conversation.

[participant] : I'm a Pagan who fell in love with the Methodist church. Now I'm a pastor.

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[participant] : Barbara, I hope you know how important you have been in my life. Your comments on late life and the falling away of things we work so hard to achieve strike me where I am at the moment. Thank you.

[participant] : My church is highly influenced by Wendell Berry. We have his Mad Farmer Manifesto hanging in our building. We definitely need an icon!

[participant] : There are so many facets to God/Jesus and different aspects speak to me depending on where I am at in life. All are valid.

[participant] : People seek purpose in Life from outside of who they are but it only comes from within.

[participant] : States of heart as well...

[participant] : Loved this conversation. Love Barbara's books—all have had meaning for me. So glad to finally "meet" her in person.

[participant] : Doing without beliefs is a dualistic, reductionistic and non-interdependence.

[participant] : I see eternal life like a genetic issue. Our ancestors live in us in their genes and we shall do the same for the future generations if we did have the privilege of having offspring(s). Perhaps a little too matter of fact, but it helps me to conceive it.

[participant] : For both: What does Marcus's statement "I die unto God and hope for the best" mean for you?

[participant] : Barbara, you'd love the song by Iris Dement called "Let the Mystery Be."

[participant] : God is Eternal, he made us and said we were good. I do not believe He will let us go for an eternity when we die. We will always be in His presence. I don't know what that will look like but it really isn't important at this point.

[participant] : I highly recommend all of Carrie Newcomer's work- she is profound and filled with holy words

[participant] : Sounds like a Durkheimian experience!

[participant] : Dearest Marianne, Thanks for this gift... Marcus has played a big part in helping my theology shape up and he is still doing that in the churches that I serve. Therefore for me, Marcus is still living in and through us... Thanks for this Gift today.

[participant] : Barbara and Marianne, how do you think you might have changed what you have shared today if we were a predominately African American and immigrant audience? How does this expand to that which we care about but have not directly experienced?

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[participant] : Many thanks!
[participant] : Embodied living
[participant] : Communion in community
[participant] : Great way to start 2023! Thank you!
[participant] : Thank you for this time!!!!
[participant] : Barbara, Thanks for this gift. What a wonderful way to begin 2023 with you "coming" to our homes... May blessings abound in and through you... Love always - Your Canadian Sister, [participant].
[participant] : Thank you!!!
[participant] : Thank you thank you! So inspiring.
[participant] : Amen!
[participant] : Amen—thank you
[participant] : amen
[participant] : thank you!
[participant] : Thank You
[participant] : Thank you!
[participant] : Thank you for that final blessing!
[Participant] : Thank you!
[participant] : Thank you...from Asheville ,NC
[participant] : Thank you
[participant] : Thank you so much
[participant] : How do we stay for the coffee hour?
[participant] : Thank you so much. Northfield, MN
[participant] : Thank YOU for this Gift.
[participant] : Thank you
[participant] : Thank you! from Julia, Houston
[participant] : Thank you both for the conversation and wonderings. Great insight for how we might meet our older, seasoned members where they are. Great wisdom and questions to ponder. Would love that final prayer to be captured and sent out if possible.
[participant] : At 80, i look at my bookshelf - and he writings of Barbara and Marcus and John Shelby Spong and Karen Armstrong - I want to take with me.....

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[participant] : Is it possible to get a list of the music from today?

[participant] : Than you for today. Blessings!

[participant] : With gratitude for your gifts,

[participant] : So thankful for the presence of these two learned and spiritual ladies in the world and in my life.

[participant] : Can I ask for the title of the music heard during the break? Thanks in advance.

[participant] : Thank you for so much wisdom, with so much grace.

[participant] : WHAT HYMN IS PLAYING?

[participant] : Finlandia

[participant] : Be Still My Soul

[participant] : Thank you for today and each Second Saturday. It is a rich and fulfilling time.

[participant] : This is My Song, O God of All the Nations

[participant] : This is my Song Lloyd Stone 1934 tune is finlandia

[participant] : Thank you all for this rich experience.

[participant] : I think the music was originally written by Sibelius

[participant] : Thank you!!

[participant] : I'm glad to have been able to step into this space from Ireland. Thank you both for being models of wisdom and grace.

[participant] : It is music from Finlandia by the Finnish composer Sebelius. but the words are different.

[participant] : So fun to share this experience with such an international group!

[participant] : Barbara, when you responded to the Tomahawk chop, I smiled, because I was about to say that Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer is a favorite of mine these days with respect to our place on the planet. I especially love her phrase "I was raised by strawberries."

[participant] : This is my first Saturday. Somewhere in the middle I wrote : " God, you continue to send me into places unknown... the first of firsts. Today I was sent into grace and awe. So very thank-full... and my soul dances". Amen

[participant] : Thank you for answering!

[participant] : The word God stands in the way of our understanding of the reality that actually exists.

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[participant] : Georgia Harkness - was a member of my congregation! Trinity UMC

[participant] : Who is the acapella chorus?

[participant] : So grateful for Marianne! Marcus' teachings live through her. Wonderful conversation today.

[participant] : that melody is also the basis for a hymn called "Be Still, My Soul"

[participant] : I have written a 4th verse to "This Is My Song", hopefully to be sung at my memorial service.

[participant] : What group performed the music? The arrangement is beautiful!

[participant] : Will this protion be recorded?

[participant] : The music was performed by a group called VOCES8

[participant] : Bless you, Barbara and Marianne. It is lovely to be in your company again.

[participant] : Thanks, [participant]!

[participant] : Thank you all, and thank you, Barbara. I'll be back, Marianne.

[participant] : [participant] ... would you share the 4th verse that you have written to this music?

[participant] : In Field of Dreams, one of the players asked, "Is this heaven?" Kevin Costner answered, "No. It's Iowa."

[participant] : [participant] ... the 4th verse to 'This is My Song'.

[participant] : 4th verse:

[participant] : Fourth verse

[Participant] : My book would be "How To Overcome an Easy Life"

[participant] : This is my dream O God of All the World's faiths.

[participant] : Greatly enjoyed my first 2nd Saturday thank you!

[participant] : This my dream O God of All the World's faiths A dream of peace for all who live on earth. An end to hate and war and bitter bloodshed for all who hope and have a love of life I'll keep our dream O God of all the worlds faiths doing my part to lift us to your love.

[participant] : Sorry for the poor response, technically. This is a 4th verse for "This Is My Song".

[participant] : Thanks Marianne and Barbara...very cool...

[participant] : like the last question....loosing the language of myth, image, art.....which can touch on the numinous ...mystery , reverenve, love, beloved

[participant] : Stimulates the vagus nerve!

[participant] : reverence (sorry spelling,...troubled fingers)

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[participant] : Does anyone think the age of enlightenment has impacted our comfort with Holy mystery?

[participant] : [participant] ... I mean the new verse you wrote for yourself

[participant] : I love to unpack the creeds, looking for the layers beneath the literal, reframing from my own context, my culture, my time and place in history.

[participant] : Our heart rhythms sync together and our brain waves as well.

[participant] : Harrell Beck of Boston could preach for one hour and I would still be listening. Sorry, no one else has been able to keep my attention that long.

[participant] : music changes the brain waves.

[participant] : Listening to Adagio for Strings may be a perfect follow up to this experience. Thanks for the thought!

[participant] : When Barbara says that more people are joining the mega churches and the Catholic Church, it worries me for the Catholic Church because many are ver conservative and perhaps we need less clerical and a more people focussed clergy.

[participant] : was being asked to sing gregorian chants that brought me back to explore christiantiy

[participant] : Thank you very much. I have taught Barbara's sermons to our Lutheran theology students. They were a game changer :-) God bless and thanks for the beautiful conversation!

[participant] : Thank you from Lynbrook, NY

[participant] : You're not dead wood Barbara!

[participant] : How we gather - from where?

[participant] : My church use a lot of Mary Oliver for liturgy too.

[participant] : [participant] I think DivinitySchool

[participant] : Fabulous!

[participant] : I came out of the tubes depressed. I find relief and joy by working and relating to prisoners and death row inmates and walking in nature/. It is a step away from the abyss.

[participant] : Thanks so much... This was my first time here and I know, it will not be the last...

[participant] : really wonderful! thank you all.

[participant] : Thank you!

[participant] : <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2015/11/religion-is-changing-not-dying/>

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[participant] : One of the authors of how we gather wrote a book called The Power of Ritual (Casper Ter Kuile) It's good...I've been using it as a text in a Spirituality class in an MSW program

[participant] : ❤️

[participant] : Thank you

[participant] : Thanks so much!