



March 11th, 2023 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

[participant] : welcome from sunny Ottawa. Canada

[participant] : Greetings from Sacramento Ca.

[participant] : Greetings from Sheffield, England. Good to be joining you today.

[participant] : Good Morning from windy Allenspark CO.

[participant] : Hello from wet San Diego

[participant] : Good Morning from Kernersville, NC (Ron Sigrist)

[participant] : And a chilly but warm-hearted greeting from Shepherdstown, WV!

[participant] : Hi from Lexington, Ky

[participant] : Hi from Sacramento

[participant] : Buenos Dias from Bend Oregon.

[participant] : hello from snowy Sheffield

[participant] : Hi from Layton, Utah

[participant] : Hi from Nevada where we are buried in snow @ Lake Tahoe

[participant] : Greetings from Snow-covered Minnesota. And all of Bloomington MN!

[participant] : Hi! Betty Gunz in Charlotte, NC here in the middle of my lunch but listening eagerly.

[participant] : Greetings from -15 Centigrade winter in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

[participant] : Good afternoon from chilly, snowy (but not like CA!) NH!

[participant] : hello from Maryland....

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[participant] : Hi everyone, from [participant] in Portland Oregon

[participant] : Hi everybody, I'm in Ferguson, Missouri

[participant] : Greetings from the mountains of Virginia.

[participant] : Greetings from [participant] in King City, OR

[participant] : and from Central Maine

[participant] : Greetings from Petaluma, CA, where we are awaiting another atmospheric river.

[participant] : Greetings from Red Oak, TX on a balmy winter's day - high in the mid-80's.

[participant] : Hi from Boise, ID

[participant] : Greetings from [participant] in upstate SC

[participant] : Northeast Oregon here.

[participant] : Hello from snowy (6 inches yesterday) upstate NY.

[participant] : [participant] in Columbia, Maryland

[participant] : Hello, Brandon, from right here is Tulsa. Miss seeing you at Phillips.

[participant] : hello to all

[participant] : Hi from Vancouver USA

[participant] : Hello from Tucson!

[participant] : Hello from Boise, Idaho.

[participant] : Hi from New Hamburg, Ontario.

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[participant] : Hello from Rio Rancho, NM

[participant] : Brandon, the photo of the birds is great!

[participant] : Blessings from Bellingham, WA

[participant] : Good morning from Bend OR

[participant] : Hello from Island Lake, IL!

[participant] : Greetings from Lyn in Franklin MA.

[participant] : Greetings from Laurens, SC

[participant] : Greetings from Tulalip, Washington! [participant]

[participant] : Greetings from Niagara Falls!

[participant] : Hello Brandon from [participant] in Kingsville, ON, Canada

[participant] : Brentwood, CA

[participant] : Hello from Hamilton Ontario

[participant] : Greetings from sunny central Indiana, where daffodils are in bloom.

[participant] : Good morning from Victoria, BC

[participant] : Good morning from Sequim, WA

[participant] : Hello from Fairfield, CA

[participant] : hello from St. Peter, Minnessota

[participant] : Blessings from Newport on the central Oregon Coast

[participant] : Greetings from snowy Sioux City, IA.

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[participant] : Good morning from Whitefish Bay, WI where I can look out my window and see melting snow and an overcast sky. Looking forward to sunshine over beautiful Lake Michigan.

[participant] : Bobbie from ST Paul

[participant] : Hello, everyone, from Hamilton, ON Canada

[participant] : Sorry, [participant]! Greetings from Berkeley, CA on a misty moisty morning.

[participant] : greetings from Atlanta,GA

[participant] : Hello, from Chelsea MI home of Jiffy Mix and Jeff Daniels (actor).

[participant] : Greetings from Dallas!

[participant] : Greetings from [participant] in Victoria BC

[participant] : Hi Bandon from Ottawa. We remember your excellent presentation here in 2013 during a tornado when you delivered your lectures in the dark!

[participant] : Greetings from Lexington, KY, where I am glad to have gotten through the recent storms with nothing but a fridge full of spoiled food.

[participant] : Greetings from Emersons in Middlebury, Vermont. We hosted Marcus for a memorable weekend back in 2007. We are happy to be with you today.

[participant] : I was at the event during the tornado also

[participant] : Any New Englanders here? Greetings from Boston!

[participant] : Hi, [participant],

[participant] : Greetings everyone from Fort Collins, Colorado

[participant] : Listening from central CT

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[participant] : Close enough, I'm almost in Rhode Island,.

[participant] : hello from snowy south dakota [participant] does anyone know ow I cn get mh own picture to appear in the gallery?

[participant] : And, at least a couple of us from Maine

[participant] : Hi from Cape Coral, Florida

[participant] : Sheffield looks like a Canadian winter at the moment

[participant] : If you have a Zoom account you can log in and add a picture to your profile.

[participant] : Peace from Cottage Grove Oregon

[participant] : Taking advantage of this audience I want to recommend EFM - Exploring Faith Matters (Education for Ministry) for those who want to dig deep into contemporary scriptural interpretation, the roots of our traditions, and new theologies in a small group setting.

[participant] : Hello from Denver!

[participant] : Hello from Pikeville KY

[participant] : Hello from Golden CO

[participant] : Ky man!! Woot

[participant] : Hello from Exeter, ON

[participant] : I'm an Irish Catholic Priest. LOL

[participant] : I grew up in Louisville, too, but not Roman Catholic.

[participant] : YES. It would be a very different Church.

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[participant] : Hello from Bend, OR Marianne's territory. from [participant], UMC clergy and UU member

[participant] : I was in 8th grade during Vatican II, and STILL regret that the movement didn't take. I would still be Catholic, and perhaps ordained in the Catholic church rather than United Church of Christ. But I love the UCC and am glad I found it!

[participant] : Hi, Brandon from Lyn Pickhover, Back in the 90's, at a JSOR in Providence, you made the parables come alive for me. Thank you.

[participant] : Understanding the Language is really important -- context of how it was understood then vs now I'm so appreciative of Marianne for continuing these conversations. I am from Ashland, OR - where 10 years ago this month I met Marcus when he came to share a weekend program titled Christianity in the 21st Century.

[participant] : As a poet, I have to agree with this work doesn't equal me point of view.

[participant] : The piece that Brandon wrote about Pope Benedict is fantastic. Check it out if you can. A Westar publication.

[participant] : Do we even need a first world religion?

[participant] : Unitarian/Universalist communities are growing...i've become part, after decades trying to cope with christianity .

[participant] : To quote Marcus, "The Bible is a human product: it tells us how our religious ancestors saw things, not how God sees things." not depressing at all. It's exciting

[participant] : How are Vatican II and Franciscan theology aligned? Are they signs of hope for Christianity?

[participant] : Thank you so much; must go. Sen Wyden is in town. Annis

[participant] : Who said what that shattered him?

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[participant] : Thank you so much. This has been wonderful.

[participant] : Link to Brandon's article:

<https://www.westarinstitute.org/blog/pope-benedict-xvi-and-the-chaos-of-relativity>

[participant] : Thanks Marianne and Brandon! Great conversation.

[participant] : Institutions, churches and governments stc. who build walls and demand loyalty oaths and tests are in the serious stages if dying.

[participant] : I was ordained priest by Jack Spong

[participant] : The word "believe" in scripture can also be meant to "Follow". So if one "believes", and translates that to "follow", their actions are following Jesus actions. It's about following Jesus example--living the life Jesus lived, not the creeds or reciting some creed.

[participant] : Yes, we have 150 years.

[participant] : I have done away with traditional creeds for many years; people still kind of complain but I try to explain why we don't say it

[participant] : united church of Canada has new creed called A Song of Faith which uses images more modern

[participant] : A former Episcopal bishop in Idaho once said he would replace the recitation of the creed with the Beatitudes.

[participant] : What is Jesus's peasant prayer?

[participant] : [participant] from

[participant] : Nashville!!

[participant] : Someone mentioned Unitarian Universalism. We are currently engaged in reviewing and possibly changing our Principles and Purposes (originally written in the

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mid-1980s, with some changes since then). It's a challenging and exciting time.

[participant] : Tish Warren also writes in the NY Times- another conservative -ACNA- priest.

[participant] : and Quakers are revising Quaker Faith and Practise again.

[participant] : Check out Bruce Epperly's The Elephant is Running.

[participant] : I wonder if Jesus's peasant prayer is the Eastern orthodox one of "Lord Jesus, forgive me, a sinner"?

[participant] : Jesus' peasant prayer anyone?

[participant] : I want to know what the peasant prayer is, as well...

[participant] : Phyllis Tickle says that every 500 years the church cleans out the attic. It's time!

[participant] : What is Jesus' peasant prayer?

[participant] : After all that Borg and the Jesus s

[participant] : It might be, "Lord have Mercy on me"

[participant] : This is my 2nd Second Saturday and I love it just like I loved Marcus Borg's books when I first found them! Thank you so much!

[participant] : Please type your comment, Brandon, "Jesus is a ??? " I cannot hear it. Thank you.

[participant] : What of the Didache? Do you see that as primarily praxis, not doctrinal?

[participant] : What are some similarities between communism and as an experiment of how to live together in large communities and the Christian Way from the early days after Jesus' death!

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[participant] : Is process theology a move forward?

[participant] : re-politicize theology and de-polarize the Church. How do you speak to conservative who know the Bible? By using scripture. Religion is political, because it's about the common good. A de-politicized religion is an empty shell. See the effects of empty theology in the political ideology and conspiracy theories, i.e., in politics.

[participant] : In the discussion of student loan forgiveness, and particularly the objections of those who have paid their loans, I found myself thinking about the parable of the workers in the vineyard.

[participant] : In 1999 then pope John Paul II in his General Audiences stated that heaven and hell are states of consciousness not places you go (paraphrase). Yet many in Christianity see salvation as eternal life in a place called heaven. What will it take to change people's mindsets?

[participant] : "Commensality" should be explained. :-)

[participant] : On the "socialism" question -- I found this helpful "Christian Socialism" by John Cort.

<https://www.amazon.com/Christian-Socialism-Informal-John-Cort/dp/1626983550> This is the 2nd ed, I read the 1st.

[participant] : Dom's recent book is excellent. 'Render to Caesar. The Struggle Over Christ and Culture in the New Testament.' A must read.

[participant] : Thanks so much Marianne and Brandon! These talks and discussions are so important to me. Blessings to you and all.

[participant] : How about Marcus and Dom's book, 'The First Paul?'

[participant] : Thank you all - stimulating and inspiring!

[participant] : Who were the good Pauline authors Brandon mentioned

[participant] : Thank you for this presentation. Refreshing and resonating!

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[participant] : April 8th I believe is the Saturday

[participant] : Re: the problem with institutionality - how do you have continuity without thing-ness? Are we then united by ethics? By practice? By nothing? Does the religion become super-local at that point? "Home churches" - small communities? Do we even want continuity?

[participant] : For Marcus: What a gift! A lovely way to spend the day, in celebration of Marcus' life.

[participant] : Appreciated Brandon's perspective on the origins of christianity and creeds.

[participant] : APRIL 9 IS A SUNDAY.

[participant] : I was blessed to hear Marcus at Eden Theological Seminary where he was extremely gracious and insightful to an Englishman, living in Missouri, formerly an Anglo Catholic, become an episcopalian attending a UCC seminary, and now living in the heart of Ferguson, helping to heal community where I can

[participant] : Happy Birthday Blessings day

[participant] : I heard Marcus in Peterborough, NH for a weekend retreat. He was wonderful.

[participant] : I hope to see a few bird photos!!!

[participant] : Superb!! Thank you.

[participant] : Thank you for this wonderful seminar ❤️🙏

[participant] : April second Saturday's date is April 8th?

[participant] : It would be good if many of the book titles mentioned could be somehow listed in follow up.

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[participant] : The time today was like finding a safe place of refreshment for the heart!
Thank you.

[participant] : Please tell Brandon that Margaret Renkl is the writer from Nashville who writes in the New York Times.....

[participant] : Long ago, my Episcopal priest said that she would lose too many congregants if she spoke truthfully from the pulpit. I'm thinking the conflict between theology and the "business" of the church, the financial end of things, which is a shame.

[participant] : because it feels like they are focused on their careers first and not what they are being called to

[participant] : Our Episcopal /ELCA church explores the "forbidden" in our Lectionary Study - with support from our shared pastor/priest.

[participant] : You lose congregants, the church/diocese loses money. Money, money, money... ugh.

[participant] : I think the problem is many of us "believers". Catholic priests will be reprimanded by their bishops if they speak out. In Protestant churches people will leave and shop around.

[participant] : I went to seminary after following Westar for about ten years (UU in a liberal PC(USA) seminary). In my NT survey course several students - lifelong church members - had a crisis hearing stuff that was old hat to me.

[participant] : [participant] is right!

[participant] : My students asked me about their pastors; I told them to ask their pastors!

[participant] : You can lose your job too.

[participant] : Humble gratitude, Jon and Beth. 🙏

[participant] : I do share Biblical insights in my homilies.

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[participant] : I'm currently reading Awakening Grassroots Spirituality. a Celtic guide for nurturing and maturing the soul, by Edwin M. Leidel, Jr.. former Episcopal bishop of eastern Michigan. Ed was the founder of our men's book group at Christ Church and a good friend. Ed is all about building community. It is book I would recommend reading.

[participant] : Our new young (Episcopal) Assistant Priest does touch on these ideas and talks about God with feminine pronouns but always has to veer back to the traditional language and ideas after the sermon.

[participant] : I was fortunate to meet Marcus and Marianne in Berkeley in 1990 (PSR). A half-dozen years later, I met you, Brandon, I met you in Santa Rosa, when I began attending Jesus Seminars. After 20 years of ministry, I left the church and was shocked to get an email 2 days ago about this meeting today, and am very grateful to have had this opportunity. I appreciated your comments about story-telling, and also your tribute(sic) to John Shelby Spong. My question would have been your thoughts on Don Cupitt and his interest in language, my most particularly, the metaphor of LIFE. Happy birthday, Marc, and

[participant] : Thank you so much for this day!

[participant] : Alas, I must depart. Can't thank everyone enough for this delicious time together. Special thanks to Marianne, Brandon, Jeff, and participants who asked excellent questions! ❤️

[participant] : Please type your comment "Jesus is a ????" I was never able to hear it. Thank you for a fascinating morning.

[participant] : Thank you everyone. This was my first Second Saturday. I saw Marcus speak in Portland years ago... so grateful.,

[participant] : "...a peasant with an attitude."

[participant] : Events, one after another, or together, make up continuity. Energy, not thingness.

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[participant] : as Zen teacher Chao Chou said "I don't dwell in clarity". The church should stop trying to.

[participant] : Kudos to one of the 20th centuries great story-tellers, Loren Eiseley

[participant] : I heard a series of talks by Marcus at our church (Epworth United Methodist in Berkeley) while he was at PSR. His words then, and his books, saved Christianity for me. Today was certain a possibility of the "church" continuing....

[participant] : I was in a home "church" for several years back in the 70. We lasted for almost 3 years. I understand that was longer than most that started in the 70s. In the end, it fell apart.

[participant] : As a recovering Lutheran, Missouri Synod, Second Saturday is my !2 Step Program,, a life-line.

[participant] : We were fortunate to be on two pilgrimages with Marianne, Marcus, Dom and Sarah Crossan in 2013 and 2014 to Rome and Naples and Turkey respectively.

[participant] : This session today has really helped with my thinking and my commitment to change. My professor Stephen Patterson would be pleased. Thank you for stimulating my little grey cells!

[participant] : We can it the "Way" as the early followers called it.

[participant] : Agreed, Donna! Marcus kept me from becoming one of Spong's "church alumni" members.

[participant] : Thank you all.

[participant] : thank you. Enormously helpful.

[participant] : Wonderful day! Thank you all.

[participant] : Yes, thanks to all!

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[participant] : Thanks Brandon and Marianne! And thanks to everyone who brought this off and asked such great questions.