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## June 10th, 2023 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

[participant] : Hi from San Diego

[participant] : Greetings from West Linn, Oregon, beautiful day for the Rose Parade!

[participant] : Good afternoon from Tampa, FL!

[participant] : Hello, from Chelsea MI home of Jiffy Mix baking products and the actor Jeff Daniels. Beautiful early summer day here.

[participant] : greetings from the Lakes Region of NH, where if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute!

[participant] : hello all from Maryland

[participant] : Greetings from Apple Valley, MN

[participant] : A sunny spring greeting from Anderson, Indiana.

[participant] : Greetings from Denver Co

[participant] : Greetings from Manhattan, Kansas ("the little apple")

[participant] : Greetings from the UK

[participant] : Greetings from London, Ontario, Canada

[participant] : greetings from Snoqualmie, WA, US

[participant] : Greeting from Windsor, NY

[participant] : greetings from Laurens, SC

[participant] : 'The Heart of Christianity' by Marcus Borg is one of my favorite books.

[participant] : Greetings from Island Lake, IL!

[participant] : Hello from Silver Spring, MD

[participant] : Good morning from South Dakota, Sheila

[participant] : I deeply appreciate your comments now.

[participant] : Jesus," the unconditional Presence". Theology tried to make the rules for God's Presence, and never quite succeeds.

[participant] : wow, everything you shared Marianne yes! I'm so glad to have found this group ❤️

[participant] : Everything changes. A practical and compelling theological explanation is 'The Unbearable Wholeness of Being' by Ilia Delio.

[participant] : We are living with one foot in the Kingdom and one foot on Earth.

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[participant] : Is there a set of flash cards about the changing Christian paradigm that I can study to help me remember key points and be able to communicate them to others in conversation?

[participant] : We really don't want to make "Oneness" become a box that is rigid ... Now you have me thinking about "One" too.

[participant] : Marianne. Thank you so much for sharing. Have a good summer. See you in September.

[participant] : Ed, Check out the Deconstruction article by Peter Choi in the June 2023 issue of Christian Century.

[participant] : One ness for me brings up the theological implications of the 'Big Bang' and the thought that our lives are connected from this infinite moment on.....that we are still 'one' or infused with the divine force that created us. And evolving back to this moment, possibly. That is the mystery.

[participant] : Good morning from [participant] in Aptos, CA

[participant] : We really enjoy and are thankful for these second Saturday conversations. One book and author we like is John Phillip Newell whose latest book is "Sacred Earth Sacred Soul" and we wonder if you would like to have him on as a guest.

[participant] : Thanks, Marianne. I think you reviewed the contributors very nicely.

[participant] : Thank you for another season of heart opening conversation!

[participant] : From table to altar.....

[participant] : In tomorrow's gospel, Jesus quotes Hosea,

[participant] : I want mercy and not sacrifice

[participant] : Common table to the altar...slipped back into OT thinking, how to "earn" God's presence and concern.

[participant] : from women as priests, in the home, celebrating faith as family members to a male hierarchy shutting them out

[participant] : Oneness IS. Message of Jesus is to love one another, so that we can survive within the One. God lives God's life in and thru me (and each other)...just be my best self.

[participant] : I come from a fundamentalist presbyterian background and spent decades away from any church. Meeting Marcus Borg after reading some of his work, helped me find a way to return to christianity in a way I could manage. but I always had trouble with the creeds in the Episcopal church. so now I'm with the Unitarians and oddly part of a group called Christian UUs.

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we all are from Catholic and Fundamentalist backgrounds, yearning for something, we don't know what exactly. but we know Christianity has formed who we are. im going to share the notes from this morning. and encourage them to watch the recordings.

[participant] : well said Dick

[participant] : Each of the guests you brought to us broadened my understanding, and were no danger to my ultimate faith in the benevolence of God and the message of Jesus.

[participant] : Education about MANY things in the church!

[participant] : think of the generations too.... we generally are a group from an older generation. my children and grandchildren have zero interest in organized religion.

[participant] : please never ever stop emerging

[participant] : Maybe the "nones" are ahead of Christians who are more tribal in their ways than universal.

[participant] : Linking what [participant] and Dick Neely said, I wonder how we can challenge the old institutions to bring the essence while letting go of the superfluous...

[participant] : Just an FYI -- About 2nd Saturday being an older group?? -- theologian Tripp Fuller addresses many of these issues and he's young(er) and so is his audience. He has podcasts, lots of video conversations -- all free too--

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSEzrfWmwQaLdnA5XarVomg>

[participant] : hear hear, Richard Mallory...out with the Creed

[participant] : The United Church of Canada is a non-creedle church... we use a song of faith...very nice and different.

[participant] : and not a word in it of Jesus' teachings

[participant] : Thanks Richard for your view of the Credo

[participant] : Amen, Richard!

[participant] : I refuse to say the Nicene Creed. I just stand quietly.

[participant] : good idea!

[participant] : My UU church celebrates all points of view. I must say I haven't missed the Nicene Creed!

[participant] : If the Bishop is around speak carefully

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[participant] : Too often happens - pastors feel they have to be careful to not push too hard / stick to the middle of the road - which holds all of us back. And it's a real challenge - including the reality that if they push too many away there's no money to keep going.

[participant] : Following from Alexis, if clergy cannot speak of their doubts and their evolutionary thoughts, what hope is there? Living in hypocrisy will never help, quite the opposite!

[participant] : Learn and enjoy thank you for Second Saturdays, so glad I found you.

[participant] : Thank you so much Marianne and everyone of you, for offering and participating in this gathering. It's enormously helpful.

[participant] : I have been "here" for several months now, and love it. As a UCC pastor, I relish the affirmation of what I believe and try to teach. Thank you.

[participant] : These are always wonderful Saturdays. A blessing. Thank you! See you in the fall.

[participant] : Thank you so much! I'm fortunate to belong to a very progressive Presbyterian congregation — couldn't stay in the church otherwise. These conversations & guests are a great contribution!

[participant] : So grateful for this opportunity to explore the workings of the heart and soul. Thank you.

[participant] : Thank you for introducing me to Jack Caputo's work. I have been enriched spiritually and intellectually by his insight about the weakness of God revealed in the passion and the insight about the difficult glory evident in the forgiveness of Jesus for his those putting him to death. It's a sign of God's solidarity with those who are oppressed throughout history and a call to us to strive for justice. Thank you! I look forward to September's gathering.

[participant] : Nice pictures to go with the song!

[participant] : Thank you so much Marriane. These gatherings have empowered me to speak my truth in the face of my role as a UMC pastor

[participant] : I have to affirm what Ed has said. A friend gave me Marcus's 'Heart of Christianity' when he saw me deeply struggling with my Christian 'faith'. Hearing about this 2nd Saturday discussion, I was and am SO grateful, Marianne. It's so refreshing and lifegiving. Thankyou!

[participant] : when we recite the nicene creed in my heart I heart a chant by Ana Hernandez "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD"

[participant] : I remember Marcus talking about creeds and commenting that it acknowledged his connection with the community that struggled with these questions many centuries ago.

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[participant] : Then when we are asked to "stand and say what we believe" I wish that could be reframed as an acknowledgement of what has gone before and not what is happening now!