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November 11th, 2023 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

- [participant]: Greetings from St. Paul,MN - I would enjoy meeting like minded people in the Twin Cities email=brianmccafr@gmail.com
- [participant]: Greetings from Lyn in Franklin, Massachusetts
- [participant]: Greetings from Avon CT!
- [participant]: Greetings from a windy, rainy day in Victoria, BC
- [participant]: 65 and sunny in Newport Beach
- [participant]: Just a friendly reminder to keep yourself muted! Thank you!
- [participant]: Hello from Tucson, Arizona, where fierceness of summer sun has surrendered to pleasant warmth with ongoing blue skies. We paid our dues and the reward has arrived.
- [participant]: Hello from Boston! I love all things Marcus Borg.
- [participant]: Greetings from Wausau Wisconsin, where autumn has morphed into early winter.
- [participant]: Hi from Kent, UK
- [participant]: Hello from damp Ottawa, Canada
- [participant]: Hi from Lekwungen Territory (Victoria BC, Canada)
- [participant]: Good Morning from Three Forks, Montana
- [participant]: Good morning from Santa Rosa, CA
- [participant]: good morning from Sheila in South Dakota. No Snow!
- [participant]: Text was totally sharp for me!
- [participant]: Good Morning from Tucson Arizona
- [participant]: is it possible for the material on the slides to be sent to us via email...or have they been already? (I am a slow reader) :-)
- [participant]: I will ask if we typically post the slides, etc. Thank you!
- [participant]: Good afternoon from The Lakes Region in NH!
- [participant]: Seamus Heaney - Skylight read by Garrison Keillor is on the Internet (Safari).
- [participant]: Hello from west of Boston! Marcus Borg's books have allowed me to remain a Christian.

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[participant]: Are these sessions recorded and preserved so that we might return to such rich and stimulating and inspiring comments?

[participant]: hello from university Baptist church, Hattiesburg, ms

[participant]: Brian from St. Paul — I was just thinking the same thing! Evelyn from Wayzata (Mac grad, '65). eheaden918@msn.com

[participant]: What was poem title again please? Poet's name?

[participant]: Liesel Mueller

[participant]: Please put the poem info in chat. Also please give titles and name the authors of the books.

[participant]: "Evil in Modern Thought" by Susan Weisman is an interesting book

[participant]: "Tell me your image of God, and I will tell you your theology".

[participant]: "In the Beginning...Creativity" Gordon D. Kaufman

[participant]: I once wrote a song, Whatever Name? about God's name, which has the line "I don't think it matters, so long as there's an answer when the deep part of the shoul cries out in pain."

[participant]: Shiva in Hindu thought is concerned with both creation and destruction. It does seem as though any creative act is to destroy as well, even if it is the destruction of the absence of what it newly created.

[participant]: Sorry, typo, meant "soul"

[participant]: Isn't "open system" an oxymoron?

[participant]: There are some very interesting and provocative comments showing up in the chat. Please consider raising your hand to share your comments during the plenary.

[participant]: Does God exist if we imagine it and the mystery? Is that God? What does Thou Art That imply?

[participant]: We should avoid the idea of an orthodox "imagining"

[participant]: I think the "open" in "open system" is about being "open" to development of the system. I'm Catholic. Some Catholics think Catholic "doctrine" is closed - as in "God has spoken". But others think doctrine is open, as in "God is speaking to us now too." A big Synod in Rome just ended. This issue was central to it.

[participant]: From Lyn P: A favorite saying in the UCC is "God is still speaking."

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[participant]: "God is still speaking" is pretty contested in the Catholic Church. So many of us listen to "God", and not the the Catholic Church.

[participant]: Please take down your hands. They are a bit distracting.

[participant]: could we not have some response after each section? I

[participant]: Is panentheisem the same as or similar to theopoetics?

[participant]: Isn't saying god is creativity also anthropomorphizing?

[participant]: What is the Kaufman book?

[participant]: Love it. I'm in the "Amen Corner,"

[participant]: Wow—that was amazing

[participant]: How does one pray to Creativity?

[participant]: so if creativity is god and I am creative, am I god?

[participant]: Is creativity always positive? What about power and greed etc?

[participant]: Marianne, you are hardly muddling. :-)

[participant]: If God is creativity, I happily think that all is really and always with in the phase of..."In the Beginning...". Everything is always beginning...

[participant]: You do such a great job,

[participant]: Lisel Mueller,

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/53133/things-56d2322956d0a>

[participant]: This fascinating program makes me wonder how the wisdom of the Celtic tradition fits in with theopoetics.

[participant]: Perhaps our creativity is "the image of God" in us is.

[participant]: St Francis' prayer I most like is ... "Who are you God? And, who am I?"

[participant]: I guess since I had my hand raised I will not be called on, so I will put my comment here. I am a Process Theist and have thoughts about a anthropomorphic god.

[participant]: Chreryl, Thomas Merton said those were the only two questions and if you could answer either, you would have answered both.

[participant]: I appreciate the line of thought that Jesus is a modern person.

[participant]: "For me God is an absolute mystery. I do not understand what God is; no one can. We have intimations, inklings; we make faltering, inadequate attempts to put mystery into words. But there is no word or sentence for it." Carl Rahner,

[participant]: Don Cupitt in his book "Life, Life" suggests that Life replaces G—D.

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[participant]: I think Marcus said something similar when talking about the Bible. It is all human construct and there is not absolute human language.

[participant]: My head is spinning. I am a scientist and Christian mystic. I place great emphasis on Holy Spirit as empowering my life, my choices, and my creativity. When we say God is love, we must go back to the Greek word for Agape (1 John 4). Agape is unconditional, selfless, sacrificial, and in action relief of suffering. I do not think this is anthropogenic. This is the call to live like Jesus and make huge sacrifices beyond our selfish wills. When I ponder God, I pull out a large poster showing hundreds of galaxies, each with billions of stars, each having an array of planets. And many of those planets will be like ours and have sentient beings. I have a book out called "Response Theology - Agape Love Powered by Holy Spirit (2022)". I show that science and theology (theoetics?) can coexist. I speculate on the next step in evolution and the nature of the Trinity. Thanks for your ministry. I would love to have a chance to present to those in your group. Shalom.

[participant]: I recommend Neale Donald Walsch's book "Tomorrow's God" in the Conversations with God series.

[participant]: The diversity of world religions may be an example of Creativity offering us many metaphors. I am thinking that anthropomorphism and incarnation may be the construct that many of us can most easily connect with. So would that mean that staying within that metaphor may be OK.

[participant]: Artists have something to offer us when it comes to the fear of an open vs closed system. In our work we need to be comfortable with that in between place. Further I wonder how much artists have a say in what Theoetic is. It seems to be their wheelhouse.

[participant]: Find your creativity, find God!

[participant]: The artistic practice takes what is closed and opens it up and takes what is fragmented and finds connection.

[participant]: Like it or not, humans are creating the world.

[participant]: Christogenesis

[participant]: We need and create functional icons. Images that open the windows into the mysteries.

[participant]: I live in chaos and wonder!

[participant]: Fungi...that is a great book. My favorite icon is photosynthesis.

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[participant]: [participant], I am a fan Chaos Theory (and Wonder)

[participant]: I am musing about metaphor being the language of theology. Would that indicate then, that mystical experience is the source of the language that is metaphor?

[participant]: Carole Macheck, Consider the book Energy and Change by Clayton Crockett. He presents the idea that energy is god, that change is god.

[participant]: Was the concept of "God" created by humans in an attempt to understand life, and the pain of death?

[participant]: We are energy, and in being co-creators, results of our creativity starts with our thoughts. Change our thoughts and mind, changes our lives and what we put out there can change us, our lives and world around us.

[participant]: wonderful thoughts Jennifer!

[participant]: Jennifer — Are you familiar with “Synchronized Minds”? (Recent article in Scientific American, July/August 2023) Not the same thing, but curious how life forms communicate.

[participant]: In our loneliness, look to fellow humans, relationships rather than a G-d in the sky.

[participant]: 1 Corinth 4:1 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the Mysteries of God” ESV

[participant]: [participant], can you post your prayer to the chat? I would love to dwell in that for a while

[participant]: me too

[participant]: [participant] , thank you, love it

[participant]: I would recommend the book ""The God We Never Knew" Beyond Dogmatic Religion to a more authentic contemporary faith.

[participant]: OF GOD:

* FAITH: I pray to understand faith as a Way of life to live love, not a set of beliefs nor opinions of doctrine, but an open-ended way of allowing my heart to trust love.

* GOD: I pray to understand God as a verb, creativity, love, and my relationship to that verb is personal.

* INCARNATION: I pray that I can universalize the incarnation, and know everything is interrelated.

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* WORD: I pray to understand the Word as the conversation of matter and spirit, life and love.
Thanks [participant]!

[participant]: How can someone write to Maryanne Borg?

[participant]: I love this “servants of Jesus and stewards of the mystery of God” — I think also stewards of all the ways God is revealed to us — to me that is the history of our church and current life of church and all religious traditions— good stewardship to me includes respect for all the ways people hear God --- embracing all without ignoring the ways that some beliefs and images and insights are used in pernicious ways

[participant]: marianneborg@comcast.net

[participant]: I joined late so apologize for this question: who is the author (Kaufman?) who says God is creativity?

[participant]: ort Gordon Kaufman

[participant]: If matter can't be created or destroyed, where did the world/universe come from?

[participant]: [participant], what is the book title?? a book from Sacred Arts?

[participant]: A Sanctified Art. sanctifiedart.org. How Does a weary world rejoice - An Advent devotional. The Last Time I Saw God.

[participant]: There will be celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the BBC programme Sea of Faith in 2024.

[participant]: Both in Cambridge and at the Gladstone Library in the UK. There will be more Sea of Faith “In Conversation” sessions that take place on the 3rd Wednesday at 7pm UK time, and so quite civilised for US/Canada time.

[participant]: Are the chat messages saved anywhere. The ideas are so good.

[participant]: Just go below on the ... ans save it on your own computer.

[participant]: Thanks for today

[participant]: thank you! great discussion. I'll carry this all week (and month).

[participant]: I will leave the chat open for a few minutes if there are more thoughts.