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Foundation

February 10th, 2024 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

[participant] : Turning off your camera until you need to be seen is a good practical and spiritual practice. From the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people.

[participant] : Good morning from Sacramento California

[participant] : greetings from Laurens, SC

[participant] : Blessings from the Oregon Central Coast

[participant] : Happy New Year! May the Year of the Dragon be a blessing to you! (And greetings from Bend, OR)

[participant] : Greetings from Pittsboro, NC

[participant] : Greetings from West Linn, Oregon, on a sunny day!

[participant] : Blessings from Lake Tahoe in Nevada

[participant] : I'm afraid I have a clash so will have to leave the meeting early. Hioe to catch up with what I miss on the recording.

[participant] : Good Morning from Boston!

[participant] : I have never met anyone who thinks like me! I live this everyday!

[participant] : Robin Wall Kimmerer tells of this so beautifully in her books - Braiding Sweetgrass and Gathering Moss.

[participant] : David Abram. Spell of Sensuous. Thanks for your sharing, Belden

[participant] : Native spirituality seems aligned - they have been doing this all along. We need to learn from them. Kent Nerburn has written much about this. All in our own neighborhood.

[participant] : Celebration and "oblation" as the lifting up in our "priestly" role; Robert Farrar Capon writes about this.

[participant] : Thank you, Belden. You are wonderfully articulating the 'way' of Christo-Pagans. There are many of us, but we are reticent and live silently because neither established Christianity nor most post-1950s 'pagan' traditions take us seriously. The maples outside my window are smiling , too.

[participant] : Loving G-d is learning to love what G-d loves.

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[participant] : This is such a beautiful conversation. It's bringing up a lot for me. You reminded me to seek out one of my favorite books: *The Sacred Place: Witnessing the Holy in the Physical World* edited by W. Scott Olsen and Scott Cairns.

[participant] : It's wonderful to have discovered this community who, wonder of wonders, is making the same journey as I am experiencing and learning so much from our conversations.

[participant] : Sending LOVE!

[participant] : So wonderful to see the two of you together...it feels like Ring Lake Ranch reunion

[participant] : Thank you, Beldon!

[participant] : I've shared this poem with Second Saturday previously: *Natural Theology* by Kelly Cherry You read it in the blue wind, the blue water, the rock spill, the blue hill rising like a phoenix from ash. Some mind makes itself known through the markings of light on air; where earth rolls right comes after, our planet's bright spoor.... If you look, you'll find truth etched on the tree trunk, the shark's tooth, a shell, a hunk of root and soil. Study from beginning to end. Alpha and omega — these are the cirrus alphabet, the Gnostics' cloudy "so — and yet." If a tree falls in a forest, a sacred hind leaps, hearing branches break; you crawl under the log and shake honey out out of a hollow, eggs from a nest, ants from the end of a stick; resting, you read God's name on the back of a bass in a blue pool; God grows everywhere, like grass.

[participant] : We have much to learn from our indigenous brothers and sisters who are so much at home in nature.

[participant] : Totally enjoyed the visit of Belden Lane! Thank you!

[participant] : Reacted to "Thank you, Belden...." with 👍

[participant] : Greetings from Tucson.

[participant] : Marianne Borg describes in one of her books about her own unitive experiences following Marcus' passing: an embroidered blanket that a student brought and was used as a prayer shawl for the body; an eagle flying over the hospital window. Do others of you remember more?

[participant] : PBS has a hugely interesting program on the James Webb space telescope. Great website as well. Innumerable vistas not previously imagined have been opened up.

[participant] : Civic as a way of being in community/belonging to each other.

[participant] : From the forest to the desert there is wonder, and all is connected. As stated above,, vistas have opened up .

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[participant] : As all of us move forward on the path of shared consciousness of mutuality what are some practices one can employ to walk confidently toward integral wholeness?

[participant] : Jim high is absolutely right about teaching students about evolution. I think tossing the Bible is too extreme. If we take a Christocentric approach to it, we can discern the true nature of God. The OT is a mere prologue to the NT.

[participant] : I hope Grandfather is somewhere you can protect him. I worry about your heart if he's taken down.

[participant] : i don't think Jim's ideas are crazy. You can't get to ecological interconnectedness except through evolution and you can't get to evolution except ecologically. so all the echoes of the Scopes trial are still affecting our politics. The present speaker of the house thinks the world began 6000 years ago, thanks Jim

[participant] : The tight blanket of my Catholic upbringing has opened up to Creation Spirituality by Studying with Matthew Fox. Karma has run over my dogma.

[participant] : The Hebrew Bible is hardly just prologue! It is full of a wonderful and wonder-full witness, albeit man-(often misguided) interpretation of the Great Mystery.

[participant] : The Hidden Life of Trees- What They Feel,..." Peter Wohlleben

[participant] : I just read a wonderful new book "The Book of Nature: The Astonishing Beauty of God's First Sacred Text" by Barbara Mahany. I recommend it to all!

[participant] : From the great state of Wyoming I thank you for the understanding of our faith and nature ties and life's passion to explore the unknown with open eyes. I will wash my collected petrified wood pieces with a new understanding. Thank you.

[participant] : Thank you Marianne for this inspiring, interesting and just wonderful Saturdays

[participant] : Here is another song to use, Maryane. "Wild Thing" by the Troggs. "Wild thing, you make my heart sing, you make everything groovy...Wild thing. ..Wild thing. I think I love you...But I wanna know for sure...Come on hold me tight...I love you." Thought this song might compliment your Waiting for Lightening. I've always thought it was prayer. I've used in RCIA classes as one of my "Unusual Hymns" series.

[participant] : Thank you Marianne and Belden 🙏

[participant] : That was beautiful. Thank you, Marianne.

[participant] : ❤️🙏

[participant] : Thank You!

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[participant] : Tree Singer by Jacqui Turner

[participant] : I was on retreat many years ago and wandered through a flowered garden. I thought I would pick a few blooms and bring them to my room. Then I thought I really should move my desk out there instead.

[participant] : This session today has been such a balm for my soul. Since I can remember as a child, the trees and all the other more than humans have been where I have always found union with the Divine, Creation, words can't describe. It is a treasure to be in community with kindred spirits. Thank you Belden, I've found inspiration from you for decades since I encountered you at Trinity in Portland all those years ago. And thank you, as always, Marianne, for bringing these great teachers to us, including yourself! 🌲❤️🌲

[participant] : Re: Grief. My daughter has developed a program for Children and Adolescent Bereavement.

[participant] : Deep, deep gratitude for this beautiful conversation today, Belden and Marianne! In 2016 after the outcome of the U.S. election, I sought out an ancient cottonwood tree in a nature center near my house. I named her Mabel after my dear, departed mother-in-law. This tree also saved me during the pandemic when I often hugged her. I feel our hearts beating together when my body is wrapped near Mabel and my face rests on her bark.

[participant] : Dear Friends, Lovers of the More than Human, you may not know, but the number 1 killer of song birds is our dear feline friends. I would implore you to please keep these beloved family members indoors, to allow our feathered more than human community members to live, as their numbers are declining precipitously. Blessings to All.