



October 12th, 2024 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

- [participant]: Did the sound go out? I was hearing music and I no longer hear anything/
[participant]: Thank you the music is back
[participant]: Hello from Esposende, Portugal
[participant]: Good morning and welcome! It would be helpful to everyone if you would change your name. Just give your first name and where you are in the world. You can do this by clicking on the three dots in the upper right hand corner of your video box. One of the options in the drop down menu says "rename". Thanks! We are glad you are here.
[participant]: Hello from Atlanta
[participant]: Hello from sunny upstate New York.
[participant]: Glad to be here. Mary Lou and David, Grafton Ontario Canada
[participant]: Greetings from Lakewood, CO
[participant]: Lawton, Oklahoma
[participant]: Hello from foggy cool WA state-
[participant]: Hello! Indaiatuba, Brazil
[participant]: Susie, Allenspark CO The leaves have mostly fallen.
[participant]: Greetings from Chelsea in SE Michigan
[participant]: Mary, from Chinook lands, Portland, Oregon
[participant]: Hello from sunny, chilly Connecticut
[participant]: Greensburg, PA
[participant]: Greetings from Ames, Iowa!
[participant]: Good morning from Carrollton, GA.
[participant]: Greetings from Springfield MO
[participant]: Good morning from unusually sunny Portland, OR.
[participant]: Good Morning from Foggy Napa, CA
[participant]: greetings from Laurens, SC
[participant]: Hi from Kent county, England
[participant]: I can't hear her! I could hear "This meeting is being recorded!"
[participant]: Blessings from Lake Tahoe in Nevada

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[participant]: Len Bourland Dallas Texas

[participant]: Good morning from Milwaukee on the shores of Lake Michigan

[participant]: Thank you VERY much for sharing opening quotes!

[participant]: Hello from. Southern ontario canada. We are very concerned about this issue too, and the us election

[participant]: buckley: national review, not new republic. a simple misspeak.

[participant]: I'm confused about how you are reading these percentages .

[participant]: Yes, I think he was misreading the percentages.

[participant]: These stats, Brandon reveal so much about the U.S. political reality...and are so discouraging! The most dangerous reality world-wide imho is the marriage of religion & nationalism! I wish I'd zoomed in earlier...to have heard everything you've been saying! Thank you.

[participant]: Does a person have to be Christian to be part of the Christian Nationalism movement?

[participant]: What I hate seeing in Episcopal churches in the States is the U.S. flag on one side of the altar, the church flag on the other side (I'm now a Canadian citizen where no Anglican Churches I've ever seen have Canadian flags)...a sacrilege!!!

[participant]: How do Christian Nationalists understand the differences and divisions within American christianity? they seem to be united against "secularism", but christians themselves don't agree on what "christianity" means.

[participant]: Thanks for addressing what I fear

[participant]: The great irony which you have yet to address, is that of American Nationalism, American exceptionalism. American imperialism says that this country must encourage and support "Democracy" throughout the planet. This means we spend one trillion a year on defense, we support with Billions of dollars two wars. We ignore the fact that we have not been this close to nuclear war since the Cuban missile crisis. Here is the irony - both political parties, and the majority of Americans support our military adventures.

[participant]: Could you talk about JD Vance and his catholicism? and what is "catholic integralism" -- the unification of church and state?

[participant]: Jesus and John Wayne anyone?

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- [participant]: What can mainline/progressive churches do to address/counter Christian nationalism?
- [participant]: A better word would be Toxic masculinity.
- [participant]: Hello from NH, where the foliage season is under way!
- [participant]: Aramaic version of Lord's Prayer?
- [participant]: How do you think, internally, adherents of Nationalism deal with the hypocrisy of the movement's leaders? (such as Trump paying for the silence of a pornography actress, not paying due taxes, ...)
- [participant]: They think he's a tool of the Lord, who uses sinners for His means.
- [participant]: How can we confront Christian Nationalism? Fight Christian Nationalism?
- [participant]: That's what I was hoping to learn.
- [participant]: What about Project 2025?
- [participant]: A good book is The False White Gospel by Jim Wallis
- [participant]: Not just the "Lord's Prayer" is problematic...still too much of Anglican polity & leadership is male authoritarian even if some movement toward equality/equity has happened!
- [participant]: Highly recommend The False White Gospel by Jim Wallis. I'm not in agreement on 100% of what he says, but most. He says toward the end of his book, "We must finally replace idealistic, white-washed notions of our American exceptionalism and our country as the city on the hill, with determination to do something truly exceptional in becoming the first real, multiracial democracy in the world.
- [participant]: Fear can turn to anger and aggressive behavior as we have seen in Canada when the Freedom Convoy went to Ottawa
- [participant]: Oh no...
- [participant]: I have heard lectures in the last week on the struggle boys and men experience with their gender roles and there is struggle, confusion, depression etc. etc. My sense is it's a barren place for males right now and Christian Nationalism could be a place for some respite as a male.
- [participant]: @Jeff, Portland, Oregon , the women at the DC gathering are being referred to as Esthers.
- [participant]: Yes, we get it...Christian Nationalism is here too.
- [participant]: That is my struggle- truth has no value-

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[participant]: We have to be in it for the long-haul!!!!

[participant]: As depressing as the topic is, I hold onto hope.

[participant]: For those who denigrate science, be careful climbing ladders. Newton's law of gravity is not simply an opinion.

[participant]: Brandon, if you were a high school teacher in OK and were ordered to teach some passage, chapter, or book from the official King James Bible, what would you choose?

[participant]: I know the session is recorded. Will I be able to watch again, later? Will I be able to download?

[participant]: I am impressed with the group. Over 300 stayed through the first part. Most have remained. That speaks loudly.

[participant]: bad Faith is excellent!

[participant]: Jim Wallis also quotes Glaude, "We're at that moment where everything is about to collapse and everything is possible, all at once," For me, that is why these conversations and our commitment to counter white Christian nationalism is so important.

[participant]: True Believer is a very well done new documentary. Website:
<https://truebelieverfilm.com>

[participant]: People respond to "mythological" thinking, for many reasons. The people who create a mythological narrative that is appealing to the fears that reside in the souls of all humans. We are right and use reason to try to argue with other people. The language of reason doesn't compute with many people. WE NEED A NEW AND COMPELLING NARRATIVE that speaks to the deeper levels of our humanity.

[participant]: Drought and the end of the Bronze Age

[participant]: Is there such a thing as the Catholic Vote today???

[participant]: ELCA Bishops have just released a powerful statement.

[participant]: We need immigrants, but we need LEGAL immigrants who have had background checks and health checks, not those who come in illegally. It is not fair to the American people or to the millions of immigrants who have applied to come here legally and are waiting patiently in line.

[participant]: What difference does "being a believer" make?! I'm with QUakers who admonish "Let your life speak"...Hear, hear!!

[participant]: White Christian nationalists see Trump as their King Cyrus.

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[participant]: I don't believe that Trump is even a nationalist, he cares nothing about this country or any other for that matter. He is a Trumpist. He is only interested in personal gain.

[participant]: Feminism freed men too!

[participant]: (This is Linda, speaking for myself) It seems that many Mainline churches are caught in a challenging position. They still rely on traditional God language without distinguishing between metaphorical and literal interpretations. To move forward, they'd need to start by teaching critical thinking and biblical criticism, which takes time and effort. Meanwhile, fundamentalists have fear and literalism on their side, making their message easier to condense into soundbites. Fear is a much quicker tool to wield.

[participant]: Watch or read the handmaids tale, to see where this could lead

[participant]: Would changing the lectionary selections result in more inclusion of women, kinder, more loving views of God and God's peoples? It seems to me that the lectionary stories perpetuate patriarchy.

[participant]: The Righteous Mind

[participant]: I was bumped from the meeting at 12:31 my time. I had an urgent! question for Brandon, and I may have missed my turn. I'll raise my hand again.

[participant]: Excellent Liliana!

[participant]: great point Liliana

[participant]: On feminism: In 1959 my HS social studies teacher in Bismarck ND bemoaned the fact that we were wasting half the brains in the US by not encouraging women to exercise their full intellectual potential by becoming scientists and political leaders.

[participant]: prescient book Dark Age Ahead, Jane Jacobs, 2007, but actually may have been too tame for what is actually evolving.

[participant]: Brandon - "Republicans only have to appeal to one group." Yes - and the Electoral College helps them maintain minority rule.

[participant]: The Dalai Lama stated that "If science proves some belief of Buddhism wrong, then Buddhism will have to change."

[participant]: Thanks for an informative session!

[participant]: From Canada written by a retired Anglican priest you Statesiders may not hear about a book which is pertinent to today's topic & discussion, I highly recommend: "Faith in Doubt" - How my Dog made me an atheist and atheism made me a priest" who proposes a

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challenging conciliation between religious faith & secular science (which is truly a NEW way of addressing the still critical issue & spoken of today)...in that he takes the reader through a fictional narrative through the author's convictions about the God projections we've all done forever between a Christian believer & his next door science neighbour...look for it!!

[participant]: About men and boys having a hard time right now -- I have sympathy for boys, not so much for adult men -- Virginia Woolf wrote women's role was "to reflect back the male image at twice the actual size".

[participant]: Thank you all!!!

[participant]: Many thanks from Athens, GA

[participant]: First time with Second Sat. Thank you so much.

[participant]: Sammy Davis Jr said "it ain't necessarily so" in the movie Porgy and Bess.

[participant]: Who is author of Equality?

[participant]: Brandon, that compliment is high praise from Kate. Good job. Both of you.

[participant]: A lovely coincidence is that at Trinity Cathedral. Portland OR, Dr. Marla Martin Hanley is leading a course in Christian Nationalism.

[participant]: the Trump Bible published in China!!!

[participant]: I'm more hopeful about all this, even though I read a lot on this issue -- I think a big problem Christian Nationalists have to contend with is that many different kinds of people in the US read the phrase "We the People" in the Constitution and believe, "Hey, that includes me too, I get to have a say!" people like Italian Catholics (what I am), Jews, Indian Hindi, African Americans, women, LGBTQ folks, etc, including the lovely Brazilians now painting my house.

[participant]: Eastern Oregon wants to be part of Idaho.

[participant]: If the Supreme Court allows having a 'state sponsored Bible' the free speech argument may be pertinent. Whose Bible or any Bible.

[participant]: "And worse I may be yet: the worst is not so long as we can say, 'This is the worst.'" This line by Edgar in William Shakespeare's King Lear ...

[participant]: Anxiety at loss of status is the great take away today.

[participant]: How does a black person, then, vote with the Nationalists?

[participant]: what is the true meaning of evangelism? That Jesus meant?

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[participant]: Quite fascinating to me - I live in MA now and lived in PA in the past - I never knew evangelical christians believed they were in control in the first place. In the Southern US, I guess? Not in the Northeast that I've experienced.

[participant]: Thank you Marianne and Brandon for one of the better recent discussions on Christian Nationalism. I am feeling more educated and more depressed, while not letting go of hope.

[participant]: Thank you! I really look forward to 2nd Saturday. KD

[participant]: Marianne, this has answered so many why questions I've ben howling to the universe.