



## November 9th, 2024 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

- [Participant]: Thank you for this serene music, Marianne.
- [Participant]: Good morning from the Amtrak Station in Klamath Falls, OR...
- [Participant]: Greetings from Laurens, SC
- [Participant]: Hello from Carrollton, GA.
- [Participant]: An overcast, bare-treed greeting from Anderson, IN
- [Participant]: Greetings from McMinnville, OR
- [Participant]: Sunny, warm greeting from Regina, SK, Canada!
- [Participant]: Good Morning from snowy Allenspark CO, 14"
- [Participant]: Hello from Portland, Oregon. Love the Arvo Pärt music.
- [Participant]: Greetings from Greensburg, PA.
- [Participant]: Hello from Ames, Iowa.
- [Participant]: Greetings from Grafton Ontario Canada
- [Participant]: good to be back with you from d]D
- [Participant]: Welcome everyone. We are so glad you are hear. We are looking forward to our time together. This is a time when community is precious.
- [Participant]: good morning from sunny (and a little chilly) Orangevale, CA! a friendly reminder to please keep your microphones muted until plenary, thanks!
- [Participant]: Good morning from New Mexico
- [Participant]: Good morning from Battle Ground, WA
- [Participant]: Good almost noon form Milwaukee, WI where Lake Michigan looks great out my window even though the sky is overcast.
- [Participant]: Hi from Boise, ID
- [Participant]: Good afternoon! I can hardly wait for these sessions each month. THANK you for providing a safe forum for considering these issues.
- [Participant]: Greetings from Ancestral, unceded lands of the Ktunaxa nation... and now known as Columbia Valley in Eastern British Columbia Canada
- [Participant]: Those quotes from Heart of Christianity prompt me to a more open heart thereby participating in God's great continuous out reach. How else to flourish in dark times.

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- [Participant]: Good evening from St Albans, in the UK.
- [Participant]: Hello from South Wales, UK, originally from Moscow, Idaho
- [Participant]: Hello from Des Moines Iowa
- [Participant]: Saint Joseph, MO
- [Participant]: Hi I'm not hearing speakers on my laptop. Suggestions?
- [Participant]: Hello from Springfield MO
- [Participant]: Greetings Fromm Portland, Oregon.
- [Participant]: But one thing is becoming increasingly clear to me: that You cannot help us, that we must help You to help ourselves. And that is all we can manage these days and also all that really matters: that we safeguard that little piece of You, God, in ourselves. And perhaps in others as well. Etty Hillesum
- [Participant]: hello from Puyallup/Tacoma WA
- [Participant]: St Albans, I love your Facebook posts.
- [Participant]: Hello from Beth Bartholomew in Seattle.
- [Participant]: Please feel free to share thoughts and questions in the chat.
- [Participant]: greetings from Winston-Salem NC
- [Participant]: Can we add climate to those concerns?
- [Participant]: "Don't mourn; Organize!
- [Participant]: President-elect Trump's power is amplified by a non-neutral judiciary and a Republican Senate. And the "joined-at-the-hip" relationship with Elon Musk, who stands to gain financially from his alliance with Mr. Trump.
- [Participant]: Mourn,, grieve and then organize.
- [Participant]: Will we be able to share tape of this with friends who aren't yet part of this group ?
- [Participant]: Victory for Confederacy (?)
- [Participant]: I'm lay preaching at St. Thomas' Episcopal in Dubois WY this Sunday - saying: We are All Wounded in some way - and are called to "beat swords (words!) into plowshares" - and to truly love our neighbors -understanding that encompasses the wounded ALL. Mary Ellen
- [Participant]: Can the book title and author be posted in the chat please.
- [Participant]: Wasn't it Abraham Lincoln who said 'Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.'

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[Participant]: Are these men strong? Or deeply fearful, hoarding power to stave off their fears....

[Participant]:

<https://www.amazon.com/Strongmen-Mussolini-Present-Ruth-Ben-Ghiat/dp/1324001542>

[Participant]: Gordon Kaufman's book *God the Problem* (1972!) provided me the permission to dismantle the "God is all-powerful" mental construct. Later, bits of Whitehead (process theology) introduced the notion of God's "suasive power", vital and eager to influence the hearts of those who are open to being influenced, who seek alliance with the deeper harmonious order and universal well-being.

[Participant]: I highly recommend a book by Stevern Charleston, meditations from an indigenous elder. Two short poems from this book are germane to our reaction to the US election: *Kinship* on page 110 and *I Know I am not alone* on page 230. *KINSHIP* ends with the lines "Kinship is the basis for an ethical society, Power builds on fear. Kinship builds on trust." *I KNOW THAT I AM NOT ALONE* ends with the three lines " I have enough faith in the future - To be willing to change the present - I am only one, but I know that I am not alone"

[Participant]: Can the Augustine passage be shared in print?

[Participant]: I would like that as well

[Participant]: M. Borg at a summer event 15 yrs. ago stated that Tillich's essay "You Are Accepted" was the best discussion of Sin and Grace that was in print - The deep estrangement in the human condition.

[Participant]: What is the source of quote from Augustine?

[Participant]: Just the Augustine writing in which it appears would gook so I could look it up.

[Participant]: In light of Marianne's reflections, I would recommend *What to Believe?* by Jack Caputo and *The Not-Yet God* by Ilia Delio.

[Participant]: Also recommend "On Tyranny" by Timothy Snyder. The audio & lectures by Snyder are on YouTube.

[Participant]: But what do I love when I love my God? . . . Not the sweet melody of harmony and song; not the fragrance of flowers, perfumes, and spices; not manna or honey; not limbs such as the body delights to embrace. It is not these that I love when I love my God. And yet, when I love him, it is true that I love a light of a certain kind, a voice, a perfume, a food, an embrace; but they are of the kind that I love in my inner self, when my soul is bathed in light that

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is not bound by space; when it listens to sound that never dies away; when it breathes fragrance that is not borne away on the wind; when it tastes food that is never consumed by the eating; when it clings to an embrace from which it is not severed by fulfillment of desire. This is what I love when I love my God.

[Participant]: Thank you [Participant]! This is what I love about this community.

[Participant]: We see things as WE are, not as THEY are!

[Participant]: God as the ever emerging of newness, ever increasing diversity?

[Participant]: Who is the person being quoted now? Indifference to wonder is the root of evil?

[Participant]: Abraham Heshel

[Participant]: Please provide Heschel references.

[Participant]: Which books?

[Participant]: From Rilke's 6th letter to a young poet: "Why not think, rather, that God is the one who is coming, moving toward us from all eternity, the final fruit of a tree whose leaves we are? What stops you from projecting God's birth into times to come and from living your life like a painful and beautiful day in the story of an immense pregnancy? Don't you see how everything that happens is ever again a new beginning? And couldn't it be God's beginning? For to begin is in itself already so beautiful. If God is the fulfillment must not what is lesser come before God, so that God can emerge from fullness and overflow? Must not God come last, in order to include everything in Godself? And what meaning could we find if God for whom we yearn belongs to the past?"

[Participant]: <https://www.awakin.org/v2/read/view.php?tid=1080>

[Participant]: I think these thoughts of possibility extend and embrace many religions..... very universal..

[Participant]: Radical Amazement

[Participant]: Check out the lyrics to The Monotones doo-wop song from the 1957's ????. The Book Of Love... "Who Wrote the Book of Love". Cute song. Captures what we are talking about today.

[Participant]: I missed it... Where is the reading from Thomas Merton from?

[Participant]: That what's unites us is our humanity.

[Participant]: Is that the Grace of these times? That we are disturbed into looking deeper?

[Participant]: Let's all read The War Prayer by Mark Twain!!!

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[Participant]: Merton and Heschel's sense of wonder at existence is only possible when you are challenged by having the stability of your experience or the larger world is pulled out from under one. The threat we are experiencing now is that the international framework of the post war world order and the norms of democratic life have been pulled out from under one. It's deeply unsettling. It's when you can get in tune with the radical contingency that is necessary to produce wonder at sheer existence.

[Participant]: Did Trump change us or reveal who we are?

[Participant]: What page in the NZ BCP for those prayers?

[Participant]: Another reason to consider the question of respect for the decisions made by others -- <https://newrepublic.com/post/188197/trump-media-information-landscape-fox> Not all of us have the same "data set" - we all "know" different things. This article reminded me of this in the realm of campaigns and elections.

[Participant]: Eisenhower coined "military-industrial-(congressional)-complex".

[Participant]: "sinful and unclean" in the Lutheran church. I never thought of this as meaning that I was worthless or bad. I always thought it meant that I was not perfect and that I am not God. It does not mean that try to do my best.

[Participant]: Westarinstitute.oeg

[Participant]: ORG!

[Participant]: Name of musician please. So moving.

[Participant]: Great [Participant]!

[Participant]: Is there someone in this group living in Tucson, Arizona?

[Participant]: Let's remember Brent's comment that most people are wounded. We all need a degree of healing, and are called to help each other receive God's healing

[Participant]: Depending on your device, you cannot save chat. I can save chat on my desktop, not on my iPhone, or my tablet. Can you use a different device??

[Participant]: This was very helpful and somewhat consoling during this difficult time (post election) for me. THANK YOU, Marianne and Jeff! Blessing on how you bring us together to keep our faith in the DIVINE!

[Participant]: THANKS....am saving chats now! YAY

[Participant]: I second that sentiment. This has been an oasis for me. Better than "going to church".

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[Participant]: could we please have a copy of that poem?