



November 9th, 2024 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

- [Participant]: greetings from Laurens, SC
- [Participant]: Hello from Grafton Ontario Canada
- [Participant]: Hello from Milwaukee, WI where we have climbed out of the single digit temperatures and now have a balmy 33 F.
- [Participant]: Hello from Lakewood, CO
- [Participant]: Hello from the Isle of Mull Scotland
- [Participant]: Reacted to "Hello from the Isle ..." with ❤️
- [Participant]: Welcome everyone! We are so glad you have joined us.
- [Participant]: Saint Joseph, MO
- [Participant]: hello from South Tx
- [Participant]: good morning from chilly NH!
- [Participant]: Hello from central Massachusetts!
- [Participant]: Hello from damp Seattle
- [Participant]: Hi from Dubois, Wyoming - so glad to be here, by my woodstove! Mary Ellen
- [Participant]: Greetings from Tucson, AZ
- [Participant]: Hi from Boise, Idaho
- [Participant]: Hello from western Pennsylvania!
- [Participant]: Please feel free to use the chat to share thoughts, reflections, resources.
- [Participant]: Greetings from Portland, OR.
- [Participant]: Theopoetic vs. theoLOGIC! Love it! Makes true sense rather than saying thology, for me.
- [Participant]: Darkness as a Divine state....
- [Participant]: Darkness seems to invite not only acknowledgement of non-knowing, but the realization of the need to let go of our own grip on certainty and control, thus opening to possibility.
- [Participant]: Remind me of the why of 4 candles in Advent Wreath.
- [Participant]: Hello darkness my old friend, I've come to speak with you again.....(Simon and Garfunkel)

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[Participant]: Excellent session. Can we save the closed captions? I would like to read it over slowly.

[Participant]: How do we reconcile assent and transcendence?

[Participant]: Winter's Cloak

This year I do not want
the dark to leave me.
I need its wrap
of silent stillness,
its cloak
of long lasting embrace.
Too much light
has pulled me away
from the chamber
of gestation.

Let the dawns
come late,
let the sunsets
arrive early,
let the evenings
extend themselves
while I lean into
the abyss of my being.

Let me lie in the cave
of my soul,
for too much light
blinds me,
steals the source
of revelation.

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Let me seek solace
in the empty places
of winter's passage,
those vast dark nights
that never fail to shelter me.

- Joyce Rupp and Marccrina Wiederkehr

[Participant]: Dark of Winter

Dark of winter, soft and still, your quiet calm surrounds me.
Let my thoughts go where they will; ease my mind profoundly.
And then my soul will sing a song, a blessed song of love eternal.
Gentle darkness, soft and still, bring your quiet to me.
Darkness, soothe my weary eyes, that I may see more clearly.
When my heart with sorrow cries, comfort and caress me.
And then my soul may hear a voice, a still, small voice of love eternal.
Darkness, when my fears arise, let your peace flow through me.

[Participant]: I need to go now, thank you so much wishing all a blessed and joyful Christmas time and look forward to meeting up in the new year. Take care. Shelagh 😊

[Participant]: The present state of existence is the decay of human institutions. Impermanence creates anxiety and despair. In this darkness we who trust what is happening and have a clearer view of the way life is, can now say "life is good" and find "The Courage to Be".

[Participant]: Just heard Shunyamurti talk about Rilke's "double soul syndrome"

[Participant]: Thanks, Karen, for sharing thoughts that are so similar to mine.

[Participant]: Hello from the darkness of Helene's destruction and the hope for an unclear future.

[Participant]: Marian, thank you for pulling together the thoughts of others & sharing with us now. - Beth

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[Participant]: I have always felt that we can not understand where the shepherds were when the angels and star appeared - so Advent was not as strong a season. But today I can see how we DO share that time with them - for us, not the birth in the manger, but the birth of the Kingdom we can create with imagination and hope and love!

[Participant]: I arrived late today so may have missed something - but I think of Advent as meaning "coming to", not "to come".

[Participant]: Marianne, please make available the group dynamic rules you posted and read. Thank you. Tootsie

[Participant]: I long for the stillness and cultivate it whenever I can. That said, during Advent I invariably find myself rushed and harried as I tend to holiday cards, wrapping and mailing presents, and trying to get different events I've been invited to. I experience more stillness after Christmas, though I also have a tradition of cleaning my house for the new year, including symbolically sweeping dust out the door with a handmade wooden broom as midnight approaches.

[Participant]: So "Coming to truth / God / understanding in or through the darkness would be what Advent means to me

[Participant]: Interestingly, my own mother also held the view that "her relationship with God was nobody's business". But, she was raised in the Roman Catholic Church, as were all her children, (including me). But we all agree with her about God. "The Church" is there to teach, (with other purposes as well), but my relationship to God, is mine. I can "use" the tradition as a kind of jumping off point.

[Participant]: Look up the lyrics to "Something Coming" from Westside Story. Could be who knows" There's something due any day I will know right away soon as it shows....

[Participant]: Some of us Scandinavians were born in an area of the world where physical darkness is a reality of geographical location. I think that is why the Scandinavian psyche is so introspective.

[Participant]: Before the meaning making, the meditation...

[Participant]: One part of Advent themes which is troublesome for me, Marianne so well touched upon...as she always encourages us to listen poetically/imaginatively before literally...are the always needing to be explained by good preachers the apocalyptic scripture

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passages, which can be so misunderstood. Isaiah's, on the other hand can be heard more directly and applied more relevantly to the Kingdom work into which we're called us participate.

[Participant]: Before the practicalities, the prayer...Before the doctrine, the dance...

[Participant]: I wonder if others here gathered today can identify with my personal preference to keep waiting, preparing...than celebrating...thus I usually am not ready for Advent to be left behind for Christmas?

[Participant]: Benedictine monk Macrina Wiederkehr has written a beautiful prayer book called: SEVEN SACRED PAUSES.

[Participant]: Macrina has provided many beautiful lyrics for Velma Frye's CD: Seven Sacred Pauses...some of the songs are about the beauty of darkness

[Participant]: My 7 yr. old adopted dog, having had little love, I have had for one year, always is a bit afraid of the daylight trips out - but runs out into the dark night and stays - taking me with her! Mary Ellen - Dubois

[Participant]: And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light, that I may venture into the unknown. And he said: Go forth into the darkness, and place your hand into the hand of God That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.

[Participant]: Re: Second Coming - a line from poet Franz Wright: "When he is no longer needed, Christ will come again." Perhaps suggesting that our participation in that Advent is required.

[Participant]: Is it possible to save closed captions?

[Participant]: An Advent gift to you all, about Advent waiting:

<https://youtu.be/D3r3GSjFtMQ?si=dqpDI2CeEowevM-4>

[Participant]: Is. 9:4--For all the boots of the trampling warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

[Participant]: Yes... counter cultural Advent...all the way!!

[Participant]: Bob Granger. Hello....former Holy Family member in PDX. How are you?

[Participant]: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Music of the Night"

[Participant]: In one of the 10th century grail stories the people with King Arthur have to go on a quest before they can eat. The quest is for the holy grail. So they come to the dark forest. The story says " thee entered the forest darkness where no one else had gone before because they thought it was wrong to take the path that someone else had taken." I like that because it

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recognizes that we all are different individuals and therefore have different paths to reach our holy grail in the depths of our individual darkness.

[Participant]: Hope locates itself in the premises that we don't know what will happen and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is the room to act. Rebecca Solnit

[Participant]: There are three little dots at the top right. Click on that and you will see "Save chat."

[Participant]: Top right of the chat column that is.

[Participant]: Blessings to everyone.