



## February 8th, 2025 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

[Participant]: Hello from sunny and snow covered Maine  
[Participant]: Good morning from the Olympic Peninsula in WA state. Snowy here!  
[Participant]: Good morning from cape cod MA!  
[Participant]: Hello to Donna from Bend  
[Participant]: Good morning from Wyoming  
[Participant]: Good morning from Oklahoma City.  
[Participant]: Greetings from Laurens, SC  
[Participant]: Hello from Ames, Iowa  
[Participant]: Good morning from the Lakes Region of NH! Cold, snowy and more in the forecast. We have had to cancel church services tomorrow.  
[Participant]: Howdy from sunny Texas!  
[Participant]: greetings from western PA  
[Participant]: Good Morning from Aberdeen SDakota  
[Participant]: Good morning from Vancouver, Canada  
[Participant]: Hello from central MA, west of Boston. Wonderful to be here.  
[Participant]: Good Morning from Lake Tahoe  
[Participant]: Glad to be here from Fruita CO  
[Participant]: Hi, from Boise, Idaho  
[Participant]: Greetings from snowy Dubois, Wyoming!  
[Participant]: Blessings from Portland OR.  
[Participant]: greetings, another one here from Aberdeen, SD  
[Participant]: Hi from Victoria, BC, Canada  
[Participant]: Hello from Roanoke Virginia  
[Participant]: hi from San Diego  
[Participant]: Hi from vermont  
[Participant]: Greetings from Fullerton California!  
[Participant]: Good morning from Milwaukee! Lake Michigan is out my window and listening to Marianne. What better way to spend a Saturday morning!.

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[Participant]: Good morning from unceded ancestral lands of Ktunaxa nation - now referred to as Fairmont Hot Springs, BC Canada

[Participant]: Greetings & blessings from frozen, snowy Saskatchewan! 🤖

[Participant]: Good morning from the central coast of CA

[Participant]: Welcome everyone. It is always a gift to see who shows up. We are so glad you are here.

[Participant]: I imagine our language of faith may be described as the "Art of Talking About God". Some label this as theopoetic which for me is a difficult term to use when talking to other people not in this group. I need simple ways of relating to others when talking about what God is and how God relates or "acts" in the world. God is not a supernatural being.

[Participant]: I would also suggest that Marcus Borg's "Speaking Christian" is helpful in that it back to the original meaning when the gospels were written.

[Participant]: South Dakota Native statue "Dignity; of earth and sky" stands on the Missouri River near Chamberlain SD. You might like seeing her. Magnificent beauty. I feel her crying out, in dignity for "liberty."

[Participant]: I have seen her and I agree that she is very magnificent.

[Participant]: My daughter lives about 30 miles from Dignity, and we stop to see it on our visits.

[Participant]: The language of repair and the language of healing is important in these times.

[Participant]: I wonder if Marianne received my STORY PEOPLE quote about "imagination?": I had "air time" last month so I hesitate to raise my hand again. Sheila

[Participant]: Who is the "he" & "him" Adam's poem refers to?

[Participant]: The one who lacks empathy and sympathy

[Participant]: Christian Nationalists now consider empathy a sin

[Participant]: I hear prophesy his morning ;the speaking of truth tao power. Thank you Marianne!

[Participant]: The Walking Dead are driving our cultural values. How do we encourage transformation / Resurrection? In the words of an old Gospel song: If ever we needed the Lord before, we shall now need him now.

[Participant]: What is the title of the Whitman poem that Marianne read?

[Participant]: Song of Myself, I think

[Participant]: The poem, Song of Myself, is from his collection Leaves of Grass.

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[Participant]: Thanks!

[Participant]: I think it is from the Hebrew understanding of the beginning that we all carry a divine spark!

[Participant]: Very insightful, timely, helpful...thanks, Marianne!

[Participant]: Imagination is a gift of connection with others.

[Participant]: Wonderful meditation Marianne... thank you!

[Participant]: Yes to sympathy, empathy, imagination. But that is not enough. Identification requires embodied experience - fasting, renunciation, sacrifice, living simply so others can simply live.

[Participant]: Thank You, Marianne. Beautiful.

[Participant]: We need to prepare for a marathon, not a sprint, to run the good race. We need to maintain our stamina and engagement in the long haul.

[Participant]: Regarding the overculture or overstory: white supremacy. It is interesting to note the demographic of this gathering.

[Participant]: One of my favorite Canadians!

[Participant]: I agree with Rudi....we need to take action before it's too late. I fear we are at a tipping point and just talking is no longer enough. I believe we are being called to action

[Participant]: We in Canada welcome the USA as a new province.

[Participant]: Is there a way to get a written copy of what was on the screen before Marianne started

[Participant]: Marianne & all you beautiful. neighbours to the south...we Canadians do not WANT to be your 51st state, believe me, as still a dual citizen, growing daily more eager to renounce my US-Nevada-born citizenship! Sorry...but Canadians would certainly welcome all thinking/caring/empathic persons south of our border! Richard Rohr teaches, and I want to live as if "everything belongs"...so please know how I feel for and with you suffering the present resident of the White House & his henchmen...for their intentions & actions affect all N. Americans!!

[Participant]: Is imagination/empathy filtered/framed by our stage of consciousness/worldview, i.e. egocentric, ethnocentric, worldcentric, cosmocentric? Is white supremacy an example of egocentric (narcissism) or ethnocentric (MAGA) imagination - an overculture of the walking dead?

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[Participant]: With USAID under attack and possible obliteration, I am upping my support of World Central Kitchen and other NGO relief operations.

[Participant]: What is the chapter and verse from the Gospel Luke that Marianne read?

[Participant]: Luke 4:16

[Participant]: Luke 4:16

[Participant]: Thank you!

[Participant]: What are the forces that might cause a substantial portion of a society to turn away from a sense of a common and shared humanity? To lose their capacity to imagine the plight of others...to fall asleep to the suffering of others? Is this where civilizations begin to fail?

[Participant]: Thank you, Kate!

[Participant]: civilizations fail from the inside when they do not pay attention to all their citizens. Trump has capitalized on that.

[Participant]: we are also departing the industrial age and entering that of AI. Folks fear what they do not understand, and that is a factor as well.

[Participant]: Quangcican - love this, Beryl!

[Participant]: Very helpful Beryl

[Participant]: teach us to care..is from TS Eliot's ASH WEdnesday.

[Participant]: Our nation goes through the dark night of the soul. Fight for the soul of our nation. Call your representatives. not only Dems but Repubs also. Time to take again it to the streets.

[Participant]: Did anyone catch the Quaker quote about comfort and discomfort

[Participant]: Indivisibles is a group that is doing just that. Look it up.

[Participant]: There are a few young un s here! Eager to learn from your wisdom and experience. 😊 (Many of us raised in the 90s grew up in awe of 60s activism. We need each other!)

[Participant]: Friends: In a nutshell, from a high level staff member of a Senator's office.

[Participant]: 1) The best thing you can do to be heard and get your congressperson to pay attention is to have face-to-face time — if they have town halls, go to them. Go to their local offices. If you're in DC, try to find a way to go to an event of theirs. Go to the "mobile offices" that their staff hold periodically (all these times are located on each congressperson's website).

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When you go, ask questions. A lot of them. And push for answers. The louder and more vocal and present you can be at those the better.

2) But those in-person events don't happen every day. So, the absolute most important thing that people should be doing every day is calling.

YOU SHOULD MAKE 6 CALLS A DAY -3 of your DC Offices, 3 local

[Participant]: 5calls.org

[Participant]: While many of us surely are suffering calling ourselves Christians, when Trump is speaking as if he is...I listen to & give thanks for the growing strong clear secular voices in the U.S. speaking up to the horrific actions & words flowing from MAGAs & their president...and I'm celebrating the voices from faith-full Christians who are rising...and need to continue being heard...all of you and many more...so the prophetic callings of truth to power are heard more & more!

[Participant]: Yes, we have had demonstrations in Salem, Oregon (capitol) of Oregon.

[Participant]: One newish one worth a look is TransEpiscopal. Since that community is an area of concern

[Participant]: Activism ended the Vietnam war...thanks be to God.

[Participant]: »LSS Lutheran Social Services and top Lutheran bishop echoed Bishop Budde.

[Participant]: Reacted to "1) The best thing yo..." with ❤️

[Participant]: I so agree...all Congress persons must be hearing from every one of us!!!

[Participant]: Encourage your church to be a sanctuary church/safe place

[Participant]: Write to your senators and congress by email or petitions. Real paper letters scare them.

[Participant]: Call to be spiritual warriors ...

[Participant]: The app "5 Calls" makes calling your Congressional representative and senators very easy.

[Participant]: KAIROS USA is a non-denominational organization working for a just peace in Israel Palestine. It's based on the 2009 Kairos Palestine letter from ~20 Christian leaders in Jerusalem, an appeal to the world to come and see what is being done to the Palestinians. It's an appeal for nonviolence.

[Participant]: We have also had town halls. The Poor People's Campaign is having a gathering this week in Salem, Oregon. Will be going to that myself.

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[Participant]: THE NYT's reported that were so many calls to the national line that it jammed the lines last week. Great work.

[Participant]: united women in Faith and the UMC in Colorado are standing up- went to Denver Capital

[Participant]: United Methodist Board of Church & Society - [www.umbcs.org](http://www.umbcs.org)

[Participant]: Common Cause has a pulse and makes it easy to write.

[Participant]: Common Cause is great!

[Participant]: Wonder poem by William Stafford on this matter:

[Participant]: The Darkness Around Us is Deep!

[Participant]: Some of our legislators are also participating in protests. Let them know we appreciate that action and support them.

[Participant]: FCNL: Friends (Quakers) Committee for National Legislation. Definitely a good resource

[Participant]: Support special elections so we can take back the house.

[Participant]: Marianne, thanks for what Christian faith must include & show in action...as Quakers say: Let our lives speak! So little do saying what we believe in ancient creeds matter, which is why I so resonate with Beryl Rayner & the other chatter who's a Unitarian, since I'm becoming a non-theist Quaker, since after 80 years I no longer can worship with Anglican/Episcopal language.

[Participant]: In addition to political action to change structures of injustice . . . to be bold swimmers . . . we need to built community with those "unlike" us . . . supporters of Tump values . . . whenever possible . . . to understand their anger and hatred. If we demonize them we will not allow the Spirit that connects us . . . to bring transformation and Resurrection.

[Participant]: As to Episcopal Church organizations in which one can participate, the Office of Government Relations (OGR), which is advocating for resolutions that are passed by General Convention. They have a weekly "Office Call" for 30 minutes where they share what members of their staff are doing. You can find a way to sign up on the Episcopal Church Web site. Also sign up for Action Alerts to receive in your email

[Participant]: Check with your denominational sites to see what's going on. I'm Presbyterian, so look to the Presbytery level as well as your local congregation and like-minded organizations.

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Our congregation has a long history of peace & justice actions. Tomorrow AM we'll meet during the education. hour to discern what action(s) we can take.

[Participant]: Is there any organized effort to take water into the desert for the undocumented?

[Participant]: Two good websites for Christian people wanting to get involved

---<https://bjconline.org/> the Baptist Joint Committee and

<https://convocation.substack.com/p/christian-nationalism-trumps-redefinition> Both sites have info on "things to do" & "how to get involved". They both have great webinars. [ I talk to people, when I can. ]

[Participant]: Episcopal Migration Ministries can also be reached by the Episcopal Website — with 800 people & lawyers joining a webinar and working to help refugees in their local parishes. Very hopeful

[Participant]: Love StoryPeople - thank you, Sheila!

[Participant]: Diana Butler Bass has been posting some very helpful messages/conversations. She advises: Love relentlessly!

[Participant]: Thank you, Sheila!

[Participant]: I've been enjoying the almost daily email offerings called "Piloting faith" - by Rev Cameron Trimble... she always ends with "We are in this together"

[Participant]: We are them, they are us.

[Participant]: Thank you Patrick! Helpful!

[Participant]: Great message, Patrick! Thank you.

[Participant]: Thank you, Patrick!

[Participant]: "Don't be encumbered by history, just go out and do something wonderful!" -- Robert Noyce

[Participant]: Lets turn our energies toward those at the margins...engage in empathy and action

[Participant]: Thank you Marianne, for your courage in exploring this topic — and for your grace.

[Participant]: Sounds like Francis with the leper!

[Participant]: Pray for Donald Trump! Perhaps the hot coals will bring salvation.

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[Participant]: I am half-Canadian - friends there sent me a tongue in cheek letter from a leader in the govt. Reminded Trump of all the provinces needing to be separate staes - thus 20 Canadian Senators!

[Participant]: Faith Language - needing to be embodied!!

[Participant]: Words come in community!

[Participant]: We Canadian's are hurting. This Second Saturday brings me hope to my life and priestly ministry.

[Participant]: This is my first time participating in Second Saturday. I drifted away from the church during Covid and didn't reconnect. I thought the church had lost meaning for me. This is my first act of reaching out...Bishop Budde's sermon and my love of Borg's books somehow brought me here. 🙏 Glad it did.

[Participant]: MAB: please include citations for poems when you send the meeting recap. Can't get hem from chat (issue with my NVDA accessibility tool).

[Participant]: just read Funk's book Honest to Jesus - very good

[Participant]: I'm an associate in Westar (a layperson, not a pastor or a scholar) . We're currently doing a book group on Robert Funk's "Honest to Jesus". Great stuff.

<https://www.westarinstitute.org/>

[Participant]: me too, Filomeana

[Participant]: i use the book in my Lectionary Study class. it surprises a lot of folks!

[Participant]: How about Revelations of the Aramaic Jesus, reading the "words" translated in the language that Jesus (Yeshua) actually spoke in his time. So very enlightening and opening up the language.

[Participant]: I am an 87 year old Canadian and I am scared to death of this evil man

[Participant]: Thank you so much for your reflection, Marianne. Bishop Budde is a model of courage for me. What a calm presence and forthright at the same time. On another note, I loved the appearance of Marianne's dog.

[Participant]: Isn't our liturgy the voice of the community, from differing times. That's why scripture readings so important.

[Participant]: In Canada we face a federal election...we are learning important lessons watching the US - and really do not want to join that body!

[Participant]: Blessings ...I look forward to the next session.

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[Participant]: Thank you, Marianne...I am seeking new language to express my faith...the creeds are not so easy to say as some of the clauses are just not part of my faith in the universal Christ and my notion of God.

[Participant]: Please post this quote in the chat !

[Participant]: Robin Meyers on March 8th....a very timely guest.

[Participant]: So TIME for faith-full PROPHECY - in the tradition of the Hebrew ones, including Jesus...and all those speaking truth to power throughout the ages!!

[Participant]: Cast recording on Amazon

[Participant]: Language of Faith: I can empathize with people who fear loss of status and privilege, I have sympathy for them because they are not able to evolve, I imagine that I need to step out of my boat, walk on water knowing that I am on solid ground.

[Participant]: Blessings all,

[Participant]: Thank you Marianne and JEff and all!

[Participant]: Blessings all!

[Participant]: Thank you, Maianne, for you wise words and generous hospitality!

[Participant]: Isn't the invitation to "love our neighbors AS ourselves"

[Participant]: Thank you all from Worcester in England! Xx

[Participant]: How do sign up for Feb 15th session?

[Participant]: Also check out 5calls.org

[Participant]: Please remember, there is a direct relationship between suffering and growth!

[Participant]: Bless Amy Klobuchar for the joke--"What's the difference..."

[Participant]: In a recent interview with Trump, Donald said he did not understand the need for confession.

[Participant]: blackand white thinking, kiss up and kick down, and anti introspective. two genders, male and female, only; it is always the fault of others, and admires certain powerful rich types and disparages others.

[Participant]: Much to unpack, as usual. And to prep for March 8 by pulling out Robin Meyers' books. And pull out A Splash of Words.

[Participant]: Yea Bishop Budde!

[Participant]: Yea KJ