



March 8th, 2025 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

- [Participant]: Good morning from Loren in
[Participant]: Fullerton, California
[Participant]: Greetings from Western Pennsylvania!
[Participant]: Just popping in to say I'll have to join you guys next time—fixing our water heater... I'm excited to start joining you guys though. Marcus's books have been incredibly helpful to my faith journey. Marianne, thank you so much for doing this!
[Participant]: Good morning from Canada 🇨🇦... elbows not up in this group ☺
[Participant]: Greetings from Bellingham, WA!
[Participant]: Good morning from Seattle, Washington
[Participant]: Howdy from Fort Worth (Cowtown), Texas!
[Participant]: Greetings from Ojai CA
[Participant]: Greetings from Laurens, SC
[Participant]: Hello from Saint Joseph, MO.
[Participant]: Hi from Scotland
[Participant]: Hello from Ashland, Oregon
[Participant]: Phoenix AZ here
[Participant]: Good morning from Sheila in South Dakota. Beautiful day here.
[Participant]: Norman, Oklahoma here
[Participant]: Good morning from Lake Tahoe in Nevada
[Participant]: Hello from Ashtabula Ohio
[Participant]: Hey from Vermont. I spent my early childhood in Oklahoma City, unfortunately NOT at the UCC with Rev. Myers! Very excited to hear from him.
[Participant]: Good morning from Bend Oregon!
[Participant]: Hi from Indiana
[Participant]: Good sunny morning from Berkeley, CA
[Participant]: Checking in from Katy TX
[Participant]: Hi from Northfield, MN
[Participant]: Hello from Portland, OR

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- [Participant]: Good morning from Milwaukee, WI where I can see a blue sky (no overcast) and Lake Michigan is a beautiful light blue out my window. All is well
- [Participant]: Good morning from Canada 🇨🇦... elbows not up in this group ☺
- [Participant]: Big thank you to whoever recommended I check into Indivisible, on the chat here last month. I did and have gotten involved. Again, thank you!!!!
- [Participant]: Blessed morning from snowy Wyoming.
- [Participant]: Good morning from the cold, windy Lakes District of NH!
- [Participant]: Hello from Ames, Iowa
- [Participant]: Greetings from Norman, OK (First Congregational UCC), proud to be in Dr. Robin Meyers's congregation.
- [Participant]: Good morning from Portland, OR.
- [Participant]: Hello from Lindenhurst IL
- [Participant]: JOINING FROM THE WODDLANDS TX
- [Participant]: Hello from Seattle. - Beth B
- [Participant]: Hello from Portland
- [Participant]: Hello from McMinnville, OR
- [Participant]: Hover over the bottom to raise the bar.
- [Participant]: Hi from Boise, ID
- [Participant]: Good trouble
- [Participant]: Arrest me!
- [Participant]: I know we have been called demons by folks close to the White House.
- [Participant]: Empathy has been called toxic by people close to the White House.
- [Participant]: On 2/28/25 Elon Musk said that "the fundamental weakness of western civilization is empathy."
- [Participant]: They will say anything to keep us divided. Better a culture war than a class war.
- [Participant]: As a former conservative and fundamentalist 'Reading the Bible Again for the First Time' rescued me.
- [Participant]: You are describing one of the profs Marcus and I had at Concordia College.
- [Participant]: Greetings from Tucson. Grateful for this gathering.
- [Participant]: At his talks Marcus would say "borrow shamelessly!"
- [Participant]: So moving and beautiful. Thank you.

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[Participant]: Wonderful... thank you!

[Participant]: We were with Mariann, Marcus and Sarah and John Dominic Crossan on two pilgrimages to Turkey and Italy (Naples and Rome).

[Participant]: Jimmy Carter may eventually remembered for being our best President and the most missed.

[Participant]: He was a great man but nobody is perfect. I would have liked to have asked President Carter why he pardoned Lt. Calley and why he ignored Oscar Romeo's pleas to stop sending weapons to San Salvador.

[Participant]: Please say that again

[Participant]: Steve Martin, ex. Cuuuuuse me!

[Participant]: Excuse me????

[Participant]: I recall hearing once that Marcus said something like this, that Oregon students said about Christianity : "They're the ones who hate". Is that accurate ? Comments.

[Participant]: There is nothing Christian about [white] christian nationalism. It's a racist power play by powerful white people frightened of becoming the minority.

[Participant]: Rev. Meyers are you willing to criticize the American Empire whose origin precedes Trump (who is only a product of the empire)

[Participant]: I wonder...am I a follower of Jesus or simply an admirer?

[Participant]: AMEN.

[Participant]: Amen!

[Participant]: mic drop 🙌

[Participant]: AMEN

[Participant]: Amen!

[Participant]: Amen

[Participant]: Boom!!

[Participant]: The biggest of Amens!!!!

[Participant]: AWESOME! Thank you, Robin and Westar for inviting me. Charlotte Speltz

[Participant]: Just incredible... thank you so much!!

[Participant]: Amen!!

[Participant]: Thank you Robin!

[Participant]: could we get written copies of Robin's talk - so many points to meditate on

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[Participant]: Thank you Robin!

[Participant]: Can the recording of this be emailed to other people who would want to hear it

[Participant]: PLEASE could we get written copies of Robin's talk - so many points to meditate on

[Participant]: Suellen, the recording will be available online in a short while. Hopefully, that will be useful.

[Participant]: "Excuse Me". Read 'Gospel Vulnerability' by Mary Sharon Moore.

[Participant]: Robin, thank you. This is the best description of Christianity I have ever heard!!

[Participant]: Condolences to you, Sheila, on Carlyle's passing.

[Participant]: Would love written copy of Robin's talk for study

[Participant]: enthymeme

[Participant]: Marianne is one of the faculty at Ring Lake Ranch this summer. I doubt there are any openings...nevertheless I urge you to consider attending in the wonderful sacred wilderness of Wyoming. sheila r

[Participant]: Robin, you have said it all in what I am troubled with in most organized religion and today's norms. How can we spread the message? Why do we not tell the truth about Jesus?

[Participant]: enthymeme means literally in Greek, "in the breast." In the breast are not just suppressed major premises, but, as Farrell suggests, a bunch of unrecognized values. In Aristotle's time. the breast (thumos) was seen as the site of understanding. It didn't migrate to the brain for a couple of centuries, after they had discovered nerves, the spinal column etc. Just commenting on what Robin says.

[Participant]: In terms of mixing leadership with politics, I am glad to have read to letter of the Pope to the US bishops. See it at

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2025/documents/20250210-lettera-vescovi-usa.html> . Only one side of A4 so quite short but to the point.

[Participant]: Bishop Budde's book is worth the read. You understand that sermon when you read the book.

[Participant]: The Ripple Effect

[Participant]: Marcus quite literally (as well as metaphorically) opened the church door for me on my first day ever there. It was a very big deal. Worth doing.

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- [Participant]: Quantum entanglement - read Ilia Delio's The Not-Yet God.
- [Participant]: quantum theology: aen
- [Participant]: amen
- [Participant]: Robin has interrupted us today and we must not sit back comfortably in our chairs!
- [Participant]: I see at least 3 books by Mariann Edgar Budde. Is there a particular one being referred to above ?
- [Participant]: 2023 How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith
- [Participant]: The book about being brave...
- [Participant]: What is needed is to show people a better way of being, The Way. Oppositional energy is mostly a waste of time because our efforts will be rejected..
- [Participant]: Receiving Jesus: The Way of Love, 2019; Gathering Up the Fragments: Preaching as Spiritual Practice 2009
- [Participant]: Thank you for this timely insight and inspiration for social and political change. Yes to Jesus the revolutionary.!...
- [Participant]: real problem with DEM party, I suggest, is all the \$\$ at its top - DEM 1% kept Bernie from winning DEM ticket in '16 when he could have beat Trump - Bernie WAS talking about the economic needs of all
- [Participant]: excuse me??
- [Participant]: This has been a TERRIFIC zoom, I'm planning to rewatch it via video!!!
- [Participant]: My question is how do we incite curiosity among those who have turned off from Christianity, thinking they know all about it and have reason to reject it?
- [Participant]: Thank you for this presentation and the vision you have!
- [Participant]: That quote was truly appalling. And that he claimed it was biblical.
- [Participant]: Are you sure he did?
- [Participant]: the NiceneC creed is a political document. Read Bart Ehrman's How Jesus Became God. Basically, it was by vote.
- [Participant]: Yes. He said it was "from the Bible."
- [Participant]: That's one of those great questions—of what we assume Jesus said.
- [Participant]: Just a comment - I think the bigger problem for left/liberal/progressive ideas and policies is the vast, far-right information media ecosystem. It's integrated and various outlets

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reinforce the same arguments - it provides a "cocoon", (and in my experience) , is comforting to many people. Yes, it offers an alternate reality, but it has great explanatory power. It's simple and presents very black and white distinctions.

[Participant]: Old Testament mentions caring for the aliens among you 36 times.

[Participant]: I've begun using Bookshop.org as an alternative to Amazon. It seems to be very good- supporting independent bookstores.

[Participant]: - The Woodlands, Texas: Thank you Robin and Marianne - very thought provoking

[Participant]: Truly a profoundly valuable session! I will listen and relisten! Thank you Marianne and Robin!

[Participant]: Nice point about working back from the whole human family to one's own family. Christianity, as St. Paul's mission suggests, breaks down the tribalism in which humans have lived until recently. Good values are universal or not Pope Francis called Vance on it. Vance is a fairly recent right wing Catholic, as I suppose everyone knows . He needs to attend these meetings

[Participant]: Yes. The "democrats blew it" -- not only by rhetoric and what was spoken about but by NOT prioritizing economic actions to benefit Americans not on the tech exploding coastlines. We did not dedicate national funding or send teams to help train people in Philly and Detroit and Kansas City to join the tech revolution. I think democratic failure was lack of crucial economic action even more so than too much verbal focus on identity issues. Both action and discussion points were MIA.

[Participant]: Amen to what Robin just said!

[Participant]: populists Christians believe that God made a Covenant with America. We are to drive out evil in order to avoid punishment. See the Camden Conference 2025 (available on line) presentation on populism and how it is driven by religion.

[Participant]: Thank you, Marianne and Robin - wonderful discussion and new books are on the way!

[Participant]: With respect to "chosen" there is a supposedly Puritan poem that goes like this: We are God's elect, the chosen few, Let all the rest be damned. There's room enough in hell for you, We won't have heaven crammed.

[Participant]: Thank you for the interesting talk, always refreshing to hear real talk on Jesus.

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[Participant]: Where did this quote from Thurman come from ? Deep River and the Negro Spiritual Speaks of Life and Death (Howard Thurman Book) by Howard Thurman

[Participant]: Could we please have the Benediction text? Uplifting!

[Participant]: and no one is going to come save the US

[Participant]: Too much of my life has been comfortable. Now is our time to be interrupted and to be interrupters. How do we interrupt without further polarizing the other?

[Participant]: thank you, Barbara - I am only thinking of Russia's and US military intervention to end germany's Trump

[Participant]: - The Woodlands, Texas: well said

[Participant]: Cynthia Bourgeault shared that loving our neighbor AS ourselves does not mean as much as we love ourselves, but as ourselves meaning that we in fact all one.

[Participant]: the idea of cause and effect & quantum entanglement reminds me of the Buddhist idea of dependent arising. It's all connected.

[Participant]: In thought Cheryl said "Coast Guard" and I was very interested in what this was going to be!

[Participant]: I think that it refers to the head of the Cost Guard who was fired by Trump. She was a woman.

[Participant]: Thank you!!! Dear Marianne I sent this message directly in the chat but not sure if it will get to you. Class is not dismissed. Amen! I was a student of Marcus' at OSU and he changed my life. I have some warm memories of Marcus's conversations in class that I want to share with you, if you are open. I tried to connect to you through the foundation and I never heard back. I wonder if I could ask that you connect with me caroldefran@gmail.com and 503.310.5036 . Especially in this 10th year after his death - I feel compelled to connect. Warmly, Carol DeFrancesco