



September 13th, 2025 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

- [Participant]: Good morning from Milwaukee
- [Participant]: Sliding a bit East, Good Afternoon
- [Participant]: Greetings from CO
- [Participant]: I have not received the code word. I am new to the conversation
- [Participant]: Greetings from Fullerton California. It is a privilege to be here this morning.
- [Participant]: Hello Fullerton from Tudson
- [Participant]: opps, Tucson
- [Participant]: Hello from sunny Ames, Iowa!
- [Participant]: hello from Montana
- [Participant]: And Hello from sunny Dublin!
- [Participant]: is disabled by the host, even after I changed the name to Stephen Braun. Only shows Pathways Church.
- [Participant]: Greetings from Cape Town South Africa.
- [Participant]: Greetings from Franklin MA
- [Participant]: Hello from Medford Oregon
- [Participant]: Hi from Isle of Mull Scotland
- [Participant]: Love music from La Mis!
- [Participant]: Greetings from sunny Kent, UK
- [Participant]: [HOST], is the video facility disabled on purpose?
- [Participant]: Greetings from West Yorkshire UK
- [Participant]: Just click on the video icon to turn it on.
- [Participant]: Greetings from Victoria, BC
- [HOST]: I accidentally had it disabled for guests, should be fixed now
- [Participant]: Greetings from Highlands, NC
- [Participant]: greetings from Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- [Participant]: Greetings from Seattle, Washington
- [Participant]: Greetings - Cape May, NJ
- [Participant]: Hello from Kansas City - so good to be with "my people."

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[Participant]: Good Afternoon from Boston, MA!

[Participant]: Hello from Oklahoma City, OK

[Participant]: Karen Armstrong in the introduction to "The Great Transformation" says we are looking for a new way to have the transcendent experience. We are meaning-seeking creatures and looking for new ways to be religious.

[Participant]: Another from Cape May, NJ!

[Participant]: Greetings from Portland Oregon

[Participant]: Greetings from Union City, Calif

[Participant]: Once again I am excited for the direction of these talks and look forward to the conversations!

[Participant]: Hello from Baltimore, MD

[HOST]: apologies everyone, comcast is really trying my patience this morning

[Participant]: Does someone know how to spell Jack's last name?

[Participant]: Caputo

[Participant]: If I were to read one book by Jack Caputo, which one would you suggest?

[Participant]: Hello from Sheila in South Dakota Great to be here with each of you

[Participant]: Thank you!

[Participant]: John D Caputo "The Weakness of God"

[Participant]: The Folly of God or What To Believe

[Participant]: Anyone have her quote about Starlight?

[Participant]: <https://southernreview.org/157/schwartz-starlight.html>

[Participant]: Starlight, like intuition, pierced the twelve

[Participant]: In dreams begin responsibility

[Participant]: South Pacific, Bloody Mary sings " You got to have a dream , if you don't have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true?" (Oscar Hammerstein)

[Participant]: Check out Zinn's Peoples History of the United States for a country's story retold

[Participant]: Brian Swimme - Journey of the Universe

[Participant]: If we don't craft a new Christian narrative without an omnipotent God or a celestial Jesus all Christianity will be in the future is six 75 year olds huddled in a sanctuary built for a thousand mumbling the creeds.

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[Participant]: Hello from St Paul, MN. My dream is to bring resources and hope to my loved one and all others in need of healing from neuropsychiatric disorders. Jesus brought healing and wholeness to those who reached out to him. The healing narrative is a strong theme throughout his ministry.

[Participant]: Jesus spoke of God, Abba every time he address a crowd; he never talked about and all powerful, all controlling God, he only spoke of a God of Love. The all powerful god arose after the Christian church was formed as a duplicate of the Roman army with its structure of a pope in place of a general on down the ranks.

[Participant]: Who talked about being "co-creators with God"?? that we, as humans create too. I think it's from a Catholic theologian, but I can't remember. Does anyone know?

[Participant]: I feel that nuturing imagination is vital to dreaming and fulfilling dreams, and feeling the awe and wonder of God.

[Participant]: Biggest responsibility is to see each human as HUMAN, with the capability to give and receive love, which is the spark of the divine

[Participant]: Caputo's latest book: What to Believe

[Participant]: As part of community, good works are what we do in response to the gift of life and being truly human. Being truly human is what Jesus is all about. James got it right regardless of what Luther said. Love without works is like a shell we put around ourselves to maintain our purity which could be blemished by interaction with others. Jesus calls us to be the salt of the earth which requires being loving, compassionate, and empathetic in community. Kingdom of God = community.

[Participant]: Anyone else wonder why of all the people pictured there doesn't appear to be one single black person on the call. What is that makes for disinterest in our reflections?

[Participant]: Don, I have often thought about that myself. It is a very good question, and a perplexing one.

[Participant]: I recommend "Saving Paradise" by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Parker. They traveled throughout the Middle East, visiting early Christian churches, and wrote a history of Christianity told through the art they found. Note that Jesus was not depicted on the cross for the first thousand years. Heaven / paradise was possible here and now, not in some future time.

[Participant]: Thoughts about reality and the import of the gospel that is not of interest to Black folks in this country is off kilter to some extent whatever the reason.

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[Participant]: I heard on Second Saturday about Paula Fredriksen, *Ancient Christianities: The First Five Hundred Years*. Currently reading and highly recommend. Published last October.

[Participant]: "Dancing in the Darkness" by Otis Moss III may give some insight into a perspective from the black church.

[Participant]: As liberated white folk we have the luxury of contemplating spirituality and how things might be different. People of color are still struggling with that kind of liberation. The understanding of eventual salvation is a saving grace for most of them.

[Participant]: Stephen Braun can you share your email again, I can't see it in the chat.

[Participant]: Perhaps invite a black theologian to speak to this on a future Second Saturday?

[Participant]: Can anyone see Stephen's email?

[Participant]: Thank you, Marianne, Jeff and all on this call. A nourishing conversation.

[Participant]: From StoryPeople 1994 In my dream the angel shrugged and said if we fail this time it will be a failure of imagination and then she placed the world gently in the palm of my hand. Two books 30 days with Hildegard of Bingen *Let There be Light* and *Learning to Walk in the Dark* Barbra BrownTaylor.

[Participant]: Maybe the water magnifies the light.

[Participant]: "When it's dark enough you can see the stars?" Ralph Waldo Emerson

[Participant]: Sharing, in case I don't get to say it:

[Participant]: From the New Zealand Prayer Book Night Prayer: (Confession)

[Participant]: We have wounded your love -

[Participant]: O God heal us. We stumble in the darkness, Light of the world, transfigure us, We forget that we are your home. Spirit of God dwell in us.

[Participant]: <https://terryfox.org> More about Terry Fox

[Participant]: Heaven and hell are not places you go but what you create. I have a tshirt .

[Participant]: Thank you for this evening. Grandchildren care calls and so I shall not take part in the coffee break.

[Participant]: Thank you, Marianne, for your enlightenment and inspiration

[Participant]: NT word for "sin" is "Missing the mark" (harmartia)

[Participant]: God can not be contained in any one person. But hopefully there is a part of God in each of us.

[Participant]: Thank you, Marianne, for keeping the conversation going!

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[Participant]: Continuing with Lynne's thoughts and Marianne's question to her, I suggest an image like a sponge where the sponge is totally immersed in water and water completely surrounds and embeds in the sponge. Where does one start and the other end?

[Participant]: Paul Knitter, "Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian"