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November 15th, 2025 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

- [Participant]: Greetings from Orcas in the San Juan Islands, Washington
- [Participant]: Greetings from Laurens, SC
- [Participant]: More greetings from Aberdeen SD
- [Participant]: Hello from Boise, ID
- [Participant]: Lear 4: 6 line 164 GLOUCESTER I see it feelingly.
- [Participant]: I think it was Gerald May who said "a long loving look at the Real".
- [Participant]: I was on a zoom 2 days ago with Luther Smith who discussed his book (which I ordered): Hope Is Here !: Spiritual Practices for Pursuing Justice and Beloved Community Paperback – November 7, 2023 by Luther E. Smith, Jr.
- [Participant]: What is the name of William Lynch's book?
- [Participant]: Images of Hope: Imagination as Healer of the Hopeless by William Lynch, S.J.
- [Participant]: Imagination keeps the door open. Absolutizing shuts the door.
- [Participant]: Coming of age brings hope in relation to End Times
- [Participant]: to discuss: stephens.braun@gmail.com
- [Participant]: can you give examples of what you are talking about
- [Participant]: Absolutism denies mystery. Mystery is built into religious experience. Mystery is built into science as well. Science and religious experience do evolve.
- [Participant]: I see absolutizing in how we practice our faith in patterns of how our service always has to be. Or the rules around that.
- [Participant]: This kind of parsing of imagination and its purposes makes me think of Tolkien's essay "On Fairy Stories." Great writing, highly recommend. Totally affirms what you're saying, Marianne, about reality being served by some kinds of imagination.
- [Participant]: Marianne is really brilliant at bringing these ideas back to what Marcus Borg wrote and practiced. Who was less absolutist than Marcus? His insight that religion (and the Bible) is a response to encounters with the sacred is his way of saying that imagination is how we search for the real. Second Saturday is such a joy.
- [Participant]: I don't know who posed the first question. Thanks. It was perfect 😊
- [Participant]: William Blake described sin as "lack of imagination."

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[Participant]: The enlightenment makes everything clear from eye level down.

[Participant]: Christian Nationalism certainly is an absolutism. And it also maintains that the state's policy not not religious thinking defines Christianity.

[Participant]: Could Sheila hold up her FunkyAngel again

[Participant]: I was a middle school science health teacher. I would not allow my students to say "I don't know!" I would have then make up something. It opened up their minds to more than the book etc stuff. Many times their responses were very near what was the point of the questions. We had fun and learned.

[Participant]: I think if one is too broken, one lacks courage to seek what is real.

[Participant]: Go to STORY PEOPLE in Iowa to see

[Participant]: God is also a verb, not a noun

[Participant]: Process! But could "real" become a verb? We could be realing?

[Participant]: Jack Caputo is one of my (many) heros!

[Participant]: reality; becoming - very helpful !

[Participant]: has Caputo'quote been posted??

[Participant]: It's interesting, does imagination happen in the "now". Do we have to be present to open to imagination?

[Participant]: I wonder how we delve into the liminal, mystery the unknown? Arts, literature,?

[Participant]: John Caputo - Theology of the Unconditional

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL10GB0KjiZ0ILm4q2_mQT8jYc6ZQO02lo&si=ZpELS4kZqBBkgjQw

[Participant]: Hope that doesn

[Participant]: I would just like to defend the enlightenment. After all, where would we be if we still believed in demons, witches, bad humors causing illness, God inflicting plague and disease on people because he hardened their master's heart? Yes, perhaps they gave short shrift to the unknowable but please realize what was supposedly "Known" was horribly wrong and terrorized humanity. So I say,, thank goodness for the enlightenment.

[Participant]: Hope that does not become aspiration and faith is the last resort of losers.

[Participant]: Even science counts on imagination in order to ask probing questions!

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[Participant]: Is there a book that discusses about the enlightenment as a reflection on its pros and cons? What would we have done without it?

[Participant]: Post the poem by W. H. Auden?

[Participant]: I take it the point is that the great moments of scene—paradigm changes—are acts of the imagination. Right?

[Participant]: another curious fact. Josiah Wedgwood was Charles Darwin's grandfather

[Participant]: good point in defense of the Enlightenmeht

[Participant]: Science explains how things work and wholesome religion expresses why things work.