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January 10th, 2026 Second Saturday Chat Transcript

- [Participant]: Good morning from Rochester MN
- [Participant]: Good morning from cold and windy Colorado!
- [Participant]: Good afternoon from chilly and damp western PA!
- [Participant]: Good morning from Mexico. Buenos Dias
- [Participant]: Greetings from Portland Oregon
- [Participant]: Greetings from Jenks, Oklahoma
- [Participant]: Greetings from The Lakes Region of NH!
- [Participant]: Welcome to Second Saturday everyone. We are glad you are here. Thank you for being a part of our online community!
- [Participant]: Hello from Ames, Iowa.
- [Participant]: Hello from Norman OK
- [Participant]: Welcome from Victoria, BC
- [Participant]: greetings from ohio
- [Participant]: O come on, people, turn off your cameras.
- [Participant]: Greetings from Salt Lake!
- [Participant]: hello from Seattle
- [Participant]: Christianity in and for the 21st century. 'How to Think About God' is a very brief article I wrote based on what I learned from Marcus Borg and others. The link to the article on Substack is here,
https://open.substack.com/pub/edgarwales/p/how-to-think-about-god?utm_campaign=post-expanded-share&utm_medium=web
- [Participant]: no picture but sound is ok
- [Participant]: no picture.
- [Participant]: My picture is good
- [Participant]: Hello from Milwaukee
- [Participant]: Hi from Boise, ID
- [Participant]: What remains when we drop all of our definitions of "God"?
- [Participant]: A theological Fan Fiction, perhaps.

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- [Participant]: There is more in the emptiness of space than there is in matter we call stuff.
- [Participant]: Infinitely more....
- [Participant]: Is this like collective unconsciousness?
- [Participant]: Yes and even more.
- [Participant]: What is it in human nature that creates the need to define? Is it a need to "own" a truth? A need to find security in certainty?
- [Participant]: A desperate need to find a port in the storms of life.
- [Participant]: Can we find security, groundedness, in Unknowing?
- [Participant]: When lighting the candle to begin centering prayer in community, I say: The Light of God surrounds us, The Love of God enfolds us, The Presence of God Watches over us, the Power of God protects us, Wherever we are, God is. Seems like this embodies what is being taught today!
- [Participant]: EXCEPT - still feels like that God is a BEING - that's hard to get away from!
- [Participant]: yes, I guess words are difficult to express the depth of that which is felt deep within us!
- [Participant]: Just say Prethinkable...why Unprethinkable?
- [Participant]: An example would be good.
- [Participant]: God is within us, around us, above us, below us, beyond us!
- [Participant]: amen
- [Participant]: Remembering the persecution of Celtic practioners who were definitely aware of the Ground and both/And experience
- [Participant]: Risking...? didn't write quickly enough?
- [Participant]: Just an interesting article -- interview with Jack with National Catholic Reporter <https://www.ncronline.org/opinion/ncr-voices/qa-philosopher-john-caputo-about-what-believe-an-d-radical-theology> I know Jack started out as Roman Catholic, don't know if he still considers himself Catholic.
- [Participant]: Mystical sense of like: awe
- [Participant]: risks exposing us to uncertainties that are part of life
- [Participant]: and admitting the uncertainties and daring not to "have it all together and settled"
- [Participant]: What about all of this and MAGA?
- [Participant]: finding groundedness in the ungrounded

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[Participant]: The darkness from which the light emerges?

[Participant]: Even though the word "we" and "us" are used, it seems as though this path is highly individualized. Is there an inclusion of a community, a communally held worldview and therefore some sort of social responsibility? I do love the image of Quantum Entanglement, especially when thinking of human community.

[Participant]: Dancing, as an example of imaginative figuration

[Participant]: I think we create them. Teilhard's "noosphere" calls me to host discussion groups online which have become intimate communities.

[Participant]: How does this re-imagining help civilization? Is it only personal feelings?

[Participant]: (Those groups come together via Centering Prayer)

[Participant]: Can re-imagining release energy?

[Participant]: Pray Always. Can be what we are talking about here today.

[Participant]: Emily, it helps civilization by changing us.

[Participant]: How we think is how we act. How we act is what we create. What we create, ultimately is culture.

[Participant]: A non-defining language?

[Participant]: Thanks so much makes sense of how my faith sits with me which seems to have difficulty being understood

[Participant]: I know that I know but I can't tell you how I know.

[Participant]: Replying to "Emily, it helps civi..."

[Participant]: A strength of JudeoChristian tradition is that "God" Adonai wants/seeks to have a relationship with creation and humanity as part of that creation. Love.

[Participant]: MAGA is about lies concerning certainty: false security

[Participant]: These concepts are what I learned from New Thought (not New Age), They are not always so easily discovered in traditionally oriented churches. Seems that we are looking at descriptive rather than prescriptive orientations.

[Participant]: This journey of radical theology - theopoetics - is so helpful in my wish to converse with otherwise secular friends with whom I want to suggest where the symbol of "God" can be known...what I've believed ever since reading Marcus' book 3 decades ago...thanks Marianne!!

[Participant]: Intentional attentiveness as a basic posture even before anything we "do."

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[Participant]: I'm not sure I have mystical sensitivities and therefore not sure how to relate to what's being said.

[Participant]: Yes, John James...hope requires action/participation!

[Participant]: I once asked, "Who does God pray to?"

[Participant]: I have discovered that the only prayer I can pray now is a Simple Thank you.

[Participant]: Ho opono pono: I'm sorry ,forgive me ,I thank you, I love you

[Participant]: Chris - love this prayer.

[Participant]: Another good and important book by Caputo is "What Would Jesus Deconstruct?" It too is very accessible, very readable.

[Participant]: Living in the Bay Area in the 70's I listened to what would be a podcast. The scientists were thinking about what they were discovering. One of them said he imagines that there will be a point where the scientists run out of words to describe their experiences. And they will then meet the mystic and philosopher and poet on the mountain top.

[Participant]: what is true is true for all time, in all places, and for all. I gave the Naomi Levvy book Einstein and the Rabbi to two people after being moved to tears by it recently. Vedanta, Buddhist notions on forms, Patonism, Continental Philosophy, and quantum are all evolving symbol systems to attempt the impossible task of the-poetics. It is all one, all the same.

[Participant]: Jesus is model of theoAction: I choose to keep the embodied Jesus in my theological wheelhouse. It is important to me to keep connection to Christianity - faith forbears for whom I am grateful. If I find value in knowing Jesus, I'm willing to invite others

[Participant]: Hi everyone. I'm in the UK and just want to say that we're in solidarity with you as you face some crazy things over there in the US. May the real radical God bless America and all of humanity.

[Participant]: I came in a couple of minutes late and missed the title of Caputo's book. When I checked Amazon (I won't order from there!) I saw one that won't be released until June of 2026. How might I get the one we're talking about today? Thanks!

[Participant]: What to Believe - Twelve Brief Lessons in Radical Theology

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

[Participant]: The title is "What to Believe."

[Participant]: What if anything does it mean to you that these sessions are apparently all white people?

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[Participant]: A"Even Dr. Seuss wrote "ON BEYOND ZEBRA"

[Participant]: Yes, linguistics tells us that the symbol is not the thing. It is only a cultural representation/attempt to convey the thing.

[Participant]: I think black theology is way ahead of the game and white Christians are behind. Read James Cone

[Participant]: But...what even those Christians still worshiping are being asked to say, Sunday by Sunday are to keep on reciting symbols stuck in anything but radical theology or poetics!!

[Participant]: JP Your prayer "The Prayer of Faith" says it all. It is what I leaned in my early church (New Thought) orientation.

[Participant]: A note! Many have taken their pictures down to conserve electricity. OK. However, I am one that finds community in seeing your faces in this gathering. Miss seeing you all.

[Participant]: I think Caputo would say the elusive sense of God comes from the fact that God does not exist.

[Participant]: How many gathered here started with Sunday school? We all start somewhere. How many of us are relating to children?

[Participant]: If you can't offer some explanation of it, it is not real or useful.

[Participant]: Lord of the Dance!

[Participant]: the two aspects of quantum mechanics that can serve as theopoetics are super position and entanglement. The former can help with incarnatin and being; the latter with the unboundedness of reality, with its classic metaphor of beating butterfly wings in the Amazon thd far-flung effects...

[Participant]: All of this is like a tremendous improvisation session. YES!...AND!

[Participant]: Marianne, still would like your e-mail so I can share that video of my talk and maybe some other writings, as we discussed last summer.

[Participant]: I came in late (thinking this began at 10:30). I note that it was recorded. How do I get to see that recording...please?

[Participant]: Jan 8 You, Kate, Elvis, and David Bowie

[Participant]: All of us are lucky to be here. But many of us don't have the sensitivity to appreciate this like you do, Kate.

[Participant]: Kate, God is with You. Thank you for your witness...

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[Participant]: Dare to NOT think about God!

[Participant]: like a fish does not think about water??

[Participant]: Deborah - or like we don't think about breathing?

[Participant]: hold your beliefs lightly because others most certainly will not

[Participant]: This part of discussion reminds me of the Buddhist point - that the finger is pointing to the moon, but we get stuck on the finger, not on the moon. All our structures, all the various theologies, are fingers. They are pointing to the moon (God? reality? what is this "thing" called human experience, human life, the fact that any of us, and the physical world, even exists).

[Participant]: We are ALL opening to a greater and greater awareness of the unfolding of Life...

[Participant]: London and Australia

[Participant]: I agree with Leigh - many people want/need a structure. To be told. To follow instructions. I'm Roman Catholic. My church is full of people who want to do what they're told - what "father said". But so many, are not, can't and won't do what they are "told".

[Participant]: THANK YOU!!!!!!

[Participant]: ALL!

[Participant]: Great session!

[Participant]: Thank you all for your comments today. Learned a lot. All this helps me to clarify what I do think, feel and experience.

[Participant]: So grateful and so thankful for this morning.