

In Search of Interspiritual Truth: An Interview with John Thatamanil (S2:E8)

“If I’m truly, as a Christian, to affirm that core affirmation that God so loved the world, then divine disclosure must be happening far beyond the boundaries of the Christian tradition.”

April 12, 2023



Welcome to *In Search Of*, a podcast where we go in search of voices and perspectives that inform and expand a life of faith. In this episode, John Thatamanil tells Amy about his interfaith work and identity in a conversation that covers everything from capitalism to philosophy to the definition of religion. Why is “syncretism” a bad word? Why is it okay to be a capitalist Christian, but not a Buddhist Christian? How can we embrace religious diversity instead of fearing it? Explore these questions and more on this episode of *In Search Of*. A transcript of this episode can be found [here](#).

John Thatamanil is a professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York, where he teaches classes in comparative theology, religious diversity, Hindu-Christian dialogue, the theology of Paul Tillich, theory of religion, process theology, and ecotheology. He's the author of *Circling the Elephant: A Comparative Theology of Religious Diversity* and is working on a book provisionally entitled, *Desiring Truth: Comparative Theology and the Quest for Interreligious Wisdom*.

Link:

- Stephen Colbert: "[**'Post-Truth' Is Just A Rip-Off Of 'Truthiness'**](#)"

Related *Christian Century* content:

- "[**The Magi's interfaith encounter \(Matt. 2:1-12\)**](#)," by Liddy Barlow (Jan 2023)
- "[**Baptist and Buddhist**](#)," by Tony Coleman (Jan 2022)
- "[**How White Christians turned syncretism into an insult**](#)," by Ross Kane (June 2021)
- "[**Faith formations in my world religions classroom**](#)," by Jason A. Mahn (Jan 2020)
- "[**My holy envy of other faith traditions**](#)," by Barbara Brown Taylor (March 2019)

- **“Three ways Buddhism has shaped me as a Sri Lankan Christian,”** by Shanta Premawardhana (Jan 2017)

Is there something that you are *in search of*? [Email us.](#)