

## **A Message from Jean Hall**

Last October, 2020, I met with you by means of a video. The topic of the presentation was “From Separation to Unity.” Now in the spring of 2021, I have prepared another presentation which also will be available in video format, sometime in April. The title of this presentation is called, “The Sacred in the Here and Now.”

Our present here and now is fraught with uncertainty, anxiety and fear. The pandemic continues to ravage the populations of our world. Our political scene of divisiveness fuels our uncertainty, our anxiety, our fear. During the presentation, we will reflect on certain scriptural figures and focus on how they dealt with their here and now. We will consider Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth, Jonah, Job and his friends Jesus and his religious authorities standing on their thresholds of **NOW**. We will ponder how these persons emerged from their thresholds -- transformed or unchanged.

It all depended on how they viewed their thresholds – as a **sacred** place in a **sacred** time, or simply a place and time, a here and now, from which to escape as quickly as possible. Thresholds of sacred time and place require living with doubt and uncertainty. We usually prefer certainty. Richard Rohr writes, “I worry about ‘true believers’ who cannot carry any doubt or anxiety at all.” Sue Monk Kidd asks in her book *When the Heart Waits*, “What has happened to our ability to dwell in unknowing, to live inside a question?”

Images of a cocoon or a seed buried in the earth can be helpful for seeing the need for such patient dwelling in unknowing. Both the cocoon and the seed hold the promise of new life, a new beginning. However, there is no hurrying the process for the emergence of a butterfly or a new seedling. In the darkness of the cocoon, in the **NOW** time, a butterfly is forming, and there is no hurrying the process. It takes waiting in the dark. In the darkness of the earth, in the **NOW** time, a seed holds leaf and flower, but there is no hurrying the process. It takes waiting in the dark. And the waiting is **sacred** time.

What we do in the **NOW**, maybe standing on the threshold of uncertainty, anxiety or fear is critical. What we do in the darkness of the cocoon or of a seed buried in the darkness of the earth is vitally important. This is threshold time, cocoon time, seed time, waiting time, **sacred time**. May we emerge transformed.