

## Theological Reflection: Session 6

### Moving Forward

Themes: Interdependence, Justice, Commitment

*We are already standing on holy ground. There is no land promised to any of us other than the land already given, the world already here.*

*We are treating life here and now as if we were in a barren wasteland, but we have profoundly misjudged our location.*

*The serpent lives in the garden, and paradise is a place of struggle, a place where suffering happens and where destructive systems that harm life have to be resisted. But as the early Christian church understood, here is where the hand of comfort can be extended, the deep breath can be taken, and we can live at home in the world, knowing this is enough. A sense of enough is critical now, because anxiety over not enough drives the exploitation and greed that threaten the earth's ecosystems and put cultures and lives at risk around the globe.*

*We come to know this world as paradise when our hearts and souls are reborn through the arduous and tender task of living rightly with one another and the earth. Generosity and mutual care are the pathways into knowing that paradise is here and now. This way of living is not utopian. It does not spring from the imagination of a better world, but from a profound embrace of this world.*

*- Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker, "This is Holy Ground" from A House for Hope*

- Where do you feel the "sense of enough"?
- Why are "generosity and mutual care" the "pathways for knowing that paradise is here and now"?
- What do Unitarian Universalists believe about salvation?