

GATHERING OUR THOUGHTS

from September 19, 2021

Kent Dobson gave his third teaching on **Sacred**, our word for the final month of the year-long series Meaning Matters: 12 Words / 12 Months.

Before the teaching, he read ["Vocation " by William Stafford](#).

Margaret Willey gave a beautiful meditation on *Sacred*, when she visited her mother at the home where she grew up.

Kent's teaching focused on a *sacred stance toward the earth*.

From Stafford's poem: *Your job is to find out what the world is trying to be*.

Kent read several passages from [The Great Work: Our Way into the Future by Thomas Berry](#),

1. We should get in touch with the wild.

["There is an ultimate wildness in all this, ..."](#)

There is an ultimate wildness in all this, for the universe, as existence itself, is a terrifying as well as a benign mode of being. If it grants us amazing powers over much of its functioning we must always remember that any arrogance on our part will ultimately be called to account....

"As one woman told a group assembled in Florida after Hurricane Andrew ..."

"It is out of the wild depths of the universe and out of our own being that the greater visions may come."

from chapter 5, *The Wild and the Sacred*

2. Science and religion/the sacred must be in creative tension, have a value-oriented conversation.

"After some four centuries of empirical observation and experiment we are having anew experience of the deepest mysteries of the universe. We see the universe both as developmental sequence of irreversible transformations and as an ever-renewing sequence of seasonal cycles. We find ourselves living both as cosmos and as cosmogenesis. In this context we ourselves have to become something of a cosmic force. If formerly we lived in a thoroughly understood, ever-renewing sequence of seasonal change, we now see ourselves both as the consequence of a long series of irreversible transformations and as a determining force in the present transformation that the earth is experiencing."

from chapter 17, *Moments of Grace*

Kent's question: Will this enhance the well-being of the earth community (of which I am a part)?
Your job is to try and find out what the world is trying to be.

from Talk Back:

[Sapiens](#) by Yuval Noah Harari

[The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History](#) by Elizabeth Kolbert

[Recovering a Sense of the Sacred: Conversations with Thomas Berry](#) by Carolyn W. Toben