



**Meditation for Wednesday in the Third Week of Lent
March 10, 2021**

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children. [Deuteronomy 4:9]

During these days of upheaval, when many of us no longer feel grounded in traditions both longstanding and new, today's words from Deuteronomy are particularly poignant. This section of Deuteronomy is part of Moses' final sermon to people who have been wandering in the wilderness for a generation and who are looking forward to going into Canaan, the land promised to them by God. Like us, they want to put the past behind them, to let the memory of their days of uncertainty and hunger fade away. But Moses urges them to remember, for it is in remembering the times when they were lost that they will also remember that God, and God alone, provided stability and direction and that in God alone is their community alive. In remembering the time when they felt they had lost everything they will remember the hope that their faith gave them.

As we too walk into a world both strange and familiar, will find peace and strength in remembering the days of loneliness and uncertainty and in telling stories to our children and grandchildren. We will not let the past cast a shadow on a future filled with infinite possibility, but we will draw strength from the light and love that persisted against all odds.

Steven Charleston, whose meditations in *Ladder to the Light* we are reading during Lent, calls this "walking the Blessingway." His words echo the words of Moses:

Do not be afraid of change, for the eternal now in which you live, the changeless love that surrounds you, will take you through whatever is to come, bringing you safely to the embrace of the one who watches over you . . . You are loved unconditionally, you are cared for unceasingly, and you are secure in the arms that will never let you go. Life is within you always. Change will come and go, but what you feel when you close your eyes in prayer will outlast even the stars above you. . . . You have been touched by the Spirit's hand. You have been called out by name. You have been blessed with many skills and with great strength. The darkness will begin to go away when you believe in the light, when you begin to believe in yourself, when you climb the Blessingway to discover just how strong your faith can be. [pp. 45. 56]