



**Reflection for the Wednesday in the First
Week of Lent
February 24, 2021**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

Psalm 51:11]

[Jesus said] 'This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. [Luke 11:29]

*Each day the exchange is made: the Spirit offers me another day; and in return asks only that I make the most of it. [Steven Charleston, *The Ladder to the Light*, p. 36]*

Throughout Lent, we are called to repentance: to turn *away* from our own willfulness *toward* God's purpose. Each week, Scripture shows us different aspects of repentance. During this first week of Lent, we are challenged specifically to set aside our assumptions about what the signs of God's presence look like and to open our eyes to the infinite possibilities held in ordinary sights and sounds. We are called to listen and to watch more carefully.

In *The Ladder to the Light*, which we are reading for Lent, Steven Charleston offers a meditation on what this exhortation might mean:

Every day I know there is something I can do to help, something great or small: showing up, attending the meeting, making my contribution, saying my prayers. Something I can do to make a difference, great or small: volunteering, offering to drive, passing on the information, telling my elected leaders how I feel. Something I can do to spread the word, great or small: make some ripples, open hearts and minds, change the world for the better. Every day I know there is work to be done for the good of others, for the good of my planet, for the good of my soul. Every day is a good day to do something to help. [p. 27]

Repentance does not require grand thoughts or great deeds. It requires that ordinary people make the most of every ordinary day by being attentive to small and ordinary ways we can contribute to the deep and abiding—often invisible—relationships we share with each other.