



## WEEK THREE - FEAR

### PRAYER

O God, you are the gathering one  
who calls us into community  
with each other  
to love and work,  
to support and heal.

You are the gathering one  
who calls us into community  
with all people;  
to bring justice and hope,  
freedom and truth.

You are the gathering one  
who calls us into community  
with the whole creation;  
to live in harmony,  
to cherish and renew.

Let us worship the God  
who makes us one.

We come celebrating our unity,  
but we confess the many ways  
that we are divided.

Our nationality, ethnic origin, economic status,  
gender, age, and political impulses  
all too often obscure the common calling  
we share in Christ's name.

May our common identity as your children  
and our communal witness to Christ  
bind us together in your name.

Forgive our tendency toward separation and division,  
and remind us that we are your people.

Called to be one, as You are one.

Amen.

# SERIES

## Chapman University Survey of American Fears

1. Corrupt government officials 79.6%
2. People I love dying (#5 in 2019) 58.5%
3. A loved one contracting the coronavirus (COVID-19) 58%
4. People I love becoming seriously ill (#3 in 2019) 57.3%
5. Widespread civil unrest 56.5%

**POINT:** When faced with uncertainty, we can often respond with fear and anxiety.

**C.S. Lewis:** "No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear."

## Psalm 23:1-6 NRSV

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me on right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

**POINT:** Conflict often derives itself from fear.

**THINK:** Possible vs. Probable

## 2 Timothy 1:7 NRSV

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and love, and self-discipline.

**Nelson Mandela,** "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it."

## Philippians 4:6-7 NRSV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.