Courage and the Common Good
October 13, 2020

Scripture
Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1: 9)

Reflection
And now -- now we must look to the future. Let us heed the voice of the people and recognize their common sense. If we do not, we not only blaspheme our political heritage, we ignore the common ties that bind all Americans. Many fear the future. Many are distrustful of their leaders, and believe that their voices are never heard. Many seek only to satisfy their private work -- wants; to satisfy their private interests. But this is the great danger America faces -- that we will cease to be one nation and become instead a collection of interest groups: city against suburb, region against region, individual against individual; each seeking to satisfy private wants. If that happens, who then will speak for America? Who then will speak for the common good?
(The Honorable Barbara Jordan, Democratic National Convention Keynote Address, July 12, 1976, NY.)

Questions for Reflection and Dialogue
At a practical level, how might we step out in faith, look fear in the face and meet the challenges of today and the weeks ahead?

What does uncommon courage look like today?

Music
You’ll Never Walk Alone (Rogers and Hammerstein)

Closing Prayer
God of all, in this year of election, in these days of discernment, IGNITE us with the fire of your love. ENFLAME our hearts with courage to embrace dialogue that transforms and truth that frees. KINDLE our love with kindness to heal divisions and reconcile relationships. LIGHT our imaginations with insight to envision and create a world where all are one. STIR our actions with justice and peace to engage critical concerns and cherish all of life. FIRE our lives with audacity and hope to risk all for God’s mission.
-- Roxanne Schares, SSND

Contemplative dialogue, deep listening, and mutual respect are the prophetic actions that we can offer.