

Prayer I heard: “ Dear Lord, I can’t. You can. Please do.”

O God our Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, we come in this time of quiet, in your presence, and we remember who and Whose we are. As we look around at this beautiful creation, and all the seasons, colors, the variety of temperatures, the intricacies of dormancy, growth, change, the vastness of the sky and the magnitude of the ocean, and more, we truly feel small, humbled and in awe. And we acknowledge once again that you are a God of power, of intellect, of beauty, of sovereignty. You are a God who “can.” And it prompts us to remember that “we can’t.” Oh we wish we could. We wish that we could change our attitude, change our circumstances, change our habits. We wish that we could fix our health or that of a loved one, we wish we could make things right in a relationship, we wish could forgive the person who hurt us, we wish we could gather the strength and courage to do what we need to do. But so often, we have to come to the stark realization that “we can’t.” And so we turn to you, who “can.” And because you are not only the creator of all, but you are Father Almighty, the Parent of all, we can, in trust and faith, pray, “Please do.” Because you love us. Which is sometimes hard to believe. Oh, we can believe you love us as a collective humanity – your children. It is harder for us to believe that you love us individually. And yet, you promise that you know when we rise up and sit down, you know the thoughts of our minds, you know even the words on our lips before we say them. And you tell each of us, “I have called you by name. You are precious in my sight and I love you.” Help us to know that when we pray, “please do,” that we can trust in your answer whatever it is. If it is yes, if it is no, if it is ‘not at this time,’ It is good to know that we are not alone, and we are not in charge. You are. Thank you O God.

And Lord, we pray for your power not only in our own lives, but in the life of our nation and our world. Our hearts are heavy after yet another senseless shooting. We pray for the victims, families, those who provided help and rescue. And we pray that we as a nation would figure out how to stop the violence against innocent lives – in schools, concerts, nightclubs. Help us to examine our morals, our priorities, our instincts. May your Spirit of wisdom and peace, bring our leaders to a place of commonality, of resolve and of action to find a way to ensure the safety and protection of our citizenship, while, at the same time upholding theirs rights. It will take intelligence, compromise and a big picture view of what we need to do. And we ask your presence and guidance. There are others we wish to pray for today..

For all these things and more, we give you thanks, and close now with the prayer Jesus’ taught us,