

Franciscan friar and popular spiritual author Richard Rohr : “We cannot attain the presence of God because we are already totally in the presence of God. What’s absent is awareness.”

Holy and Almighty God of all creation, God of all creatures, God of all humanity, we pause, wanting to be in your presence. To feel you near. To draw on your strength and wisdom. To feel your love. Lord, we come humbly before you today, glad that you are God, not us, though we confess, we sometimes act as if we wanted to be you. For what is going on in our country right now just seems too big, too out of control, too extreme. And we feel helpless to change things, to make a difference. And sometimes when we feel this way, we also feel numb – numb to your presence, numb to our own feelings, numb to presence and feeling of others. We exist rather than live. And so help us Lord to be aware. Aware of the beauty and blessings around us, aware of the love of family and friends, aware of the joys we can encounter each day, if we just look. And help us also, Lord to be aware of you. As the Psalmist said, “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?” And then he acknowledges there is nowhere we can go that you aren’t there. Even in the midst of a pandemic, even in the midst of racial and political division and strife, you are there Lord. You are there, if we just pay attention, just be aware. And help us be aware not only of your presence, but also be aware as to how you want to use us in this time of trouble. For as Christians we are not only to be comforted by you, we are to be used by you. We are to be your presence to the people around us, in our families, in our communities. We are to be bearers of peace, of truth, of wisdom. We are to be the calming voice of reason, of hope, of understanding, of love. Forgive us when we turn too much inward focusing only on ourselves and our families. Forgive us when we get caught up in the news and begin to act like those we complain about. Once again, come Holy Spirit come, fill us, use us, for your purpose.

And Lord, we lift our country up to you today. For the tension that just continues to build, and which is affecting innocent people – business owners, people traveling the highway and innocent police. We pray for our own Falmouth Police Department, who are good women and men doing their jobs rightly and justly, and are being vilified just because they wear the uniform. Lord, bring peace, bring justice to all. Please enable our leaders to put aside their own agendas and look out for the people they are sworn to serve. All people, in all walks of life, in all shades of colors. Lord, may your mercy be upon us. And we pray Lord, that something good will come from this. We know you can turn dark into light and death into life. And so we ask that your hand of healing and transformation be upon us all.

Lord’s Prayer