

## Faith and Politics

*The Bible doesn't ignore the political realm - some stories even suggest that God may be seen working through the state and through those of other nationalities and faiths. This prayer refers to Cyrus the Persian (Iranian) king who is described in Isaiah 45: 1 as God's anointed and to the story in Matthew's gospel (Matthew 22: 21) where Jesus is questioned about whether it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. Faith and politics are interwoven and messy - this is an attempt to recognise and celebrate that God sees things from a much bigger, international and ecological perspective.*

God who anoints Cyrus  
a foreign national  
and worshipper of a different god  
a rising superpower  
and international threat

**We thank you that you are at work  
through different nationalities and faiths.**

God who sings a new song  
which fills the heavens  
and quakes the earth  
which roars the sea  
and sets the forests singing

**We thank you that you are at work  
through the entire created universe.**

God who grants us grace and peace  
who remembers us  
and gives thanks for us  
who rejoices in us  
who spreads good news through us

**We thank you that you are at work  
in us and through us and with us.**

God who recognises Caesar  
who understands the necessity of taxes  
and the tensions between religion and state  
who shows partiality to no one  
and sees life from many perspectives

**We thank you that you show us the bigger picture  
and require us to work things out for ourselves.**

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