

O loving and merciful God who we know by many names,  
help our leaders to cultivate hearts that are large enough  
to match the breadth of our own souls;

Guide them to seek  
more than development for ourselves—  
though development we hope for—  
more than security for our own land—  
though security we need—  
more than satisfaction for our wants—  
though many things we desire.

Give them the courage to work with other leaders  
to bring safety to the whole world.

Give them the wisdom to  
lead our nation to virtue  
without seeking to impose our kind of virtue  
on the virtue of others.

Give us a government  
that provides for the advancement  
of this country  
without taking resources from others  
to achieve it.

Give us insight enough ourselves  
to distinguish  
strength from power,  
growth from greed,  
leadership from dominance,  
and real greatness from the trappings of grandiosity.

We trust you, Great God,  
to open our hearts to learn from those  
to whom you speak in different tongues  
and to respect the life and words  
of those to whom you entrusted  
the good of other parts of this globe.

We beg you, Great God,  
give us the vision as a people  
to embrace as our own,  
the fears and hopes  
Of those who are different from us;  
to protect human rights  
for everyone everywhere.

We ask these things, Great and Loving God,  
with minds open to your word  
and hearts that trust in your eternal care.  
Amen.

Adapted from [A Prayer for Leadership](#)

By [Joan Chittister](#)