conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

*Closing Song: "He Is Making All Things Right"

1. ***Hail the rightful ruler: Christ who come to save!***
King of truth and justice, Lord of love and grace.
He who bore the cross to bring His people peace,
broke the chains of sin and set the captive free.

Chorus 1: ***He is making all things right; he is making all things right.***

2. ***Hail the humble shepherd, bending low to serve.***
Bread for all our hunger,water for our thirst.
He who helps his neighbor loves the least of these,
welcomes in the stranger, sets the captive free.

Chorus 2: ***He is making all things right; he is making all things right.***
In His goodness, in His time. he is making all things right.

3. ***Hail the coming Savior: hope of every heart,***
healer of the nations, bright and morning star.
He will win the battle, put the world at peace,
finally and forever set the captive free!

Words & Music: Bryan Fowler, Skye Peterson, Ben Shive © 2024 Be Essential Songs/Beehive Hymns/bryanfowlersongs/Getty Music Publishing

Worship Participants

Piano/Organ: Donna Brue ✦ Viola: Naomi Ploegstra ✦ Worship Leader: Rebecca DeVries
Readers: Jenni Breems, Marcy Holwerda, Benjamin & Brandon Hummel, Lee, Auden, & Alyda Mellema, Dave & Jeri Schelhaas, Linda Visser
Sound: Jeff Ploegstra ✦ Video: Marty Vander Plaats ✦ CCLI #493458 ✦ OneLicense #A-721171

Hearing Assistance

A telecoil hearing-loop system sends a signal into the sanctuary. If your hearing aid is t-coil equipped, try switching to the t-coil receiver. An FM hearing assistance system is also available for ears without hearing aids. Consult the sound operator for assistance.

Our World Belongs to God

September 27, 2026



A Contemporary Testimony

In 1977, the Synod of the Christian Reformed Church of North America agreed that "that there is a need to move in the direction of formulating a contemporary testimony in view of the secularization of modern life and culture." A committee was appointed and after years of writing and revising, the first edition of *Our World Belongs to God* was adopted by Synod in 1986. This second edition was approved by Synod 2008. While not having confessional status, it is meant to give a hymn-like expression of our faith within the heritage of the Reformed confessions, especially addressing issues that confront the church today.

God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome

*Call to Worship: Psalm 95:1-6 p.933

*Opening Song: “O Worship the King” LUYH 2:1,3,4,5

Preamble

Our World Belongs to God, art.1-4

1. As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—
   which some seek to control, and others view with despair—
   we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!
2. From the beginning, through all the crises of our times,
   until the kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever:
   Our world belongs to God!
   God is King: let the earth be glad!
   Christ is victor: his rule has begun!
   The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!
3. Still, despair and rebellious pride fill the earth:
   some, crushed by failure or broken by pain, give up on life and hope and God;
   others, shaken, but still hoping for human triumph,
   work feverishly to realize their dreams.
   As believers in God, we also struggle with the spirits of this age,
   resisting them in the power of the Spirit,
   testing them by God’s sure Word.
4. Our world, fallen into sin, has lost its first goodness,
   but God has not abandoned the work of his hands:
   our Maker preserves this world, sending seasons, sun, and rain,
   upholding all creatures,
   renewing the earth, promising a Savior, guiding all things to their purpose.

*Song: “This Is My Father’s World” LUYH 21:1,3

Our World Belongs to God, art.5-6

5. God holds this world with fierce love.
   Keeping his promise, he sends Jesus into the world,
   pours out the Holy Spirit, and announces the good news:
   sinners who repent and believe in Jesus
   live anew as members of the family of God—
   the firstfruits of a new creation.

20. When evil filled the earth, God judged it with a flood
    but rescued Noah and his family and animals of every kind.
    He covenanted with all creatures that seasons will continue
    and that such destruction will not come again
    until the last day when the Lord returns to make all things new.

Sung Refrain: “I Am Your God; You Are My People” LUYH 36

21. The Lord promised to be God to Abraham, Sarah, and their children,
    calling them to walk faithfully before him
    and blessing the nations through them.
    God chose Israel to show the glory of his name,
    the power of his love, and the wisdom of his ways.
    The Lord gave them the law through Moses
    and led them by rulers and teachers,
    shaping a people in whom God is revealed—a light to the nations.

Sung Refrain: “I Am Your God; You Are My People” LUYH 36

22. When Israel spurned God's love—
    lusting after other gods, trusting in power and wealth,
    and hurting the weak—
    God scattered them among the nations,
    yet kept a faithful remnant and promised them the Messiah:
    a prophet to speak good news,
    a king to crush evil and rule the earth with justice,
    a priest to be sacrificed for sinners.
    God promised to forgive their sins
    and give them a new heart and a new spirit,
    moving them to walk in his ways.

Sung Refrain: “I Am Your God; You Are My People” LUYH 36

Christ

Our World Belongs to God, art.23

23. Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself,
    God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ—
    the eternal Word made flesh.
    He is the long-awaited Messiah,
    one with us and one with God,
    fully human and fully divine,

Song: “How Long, O Lord”

1. ***O God, who hears our prayers, when will your kingdom come?***
With souls weighed down with cares, we call to you alone.
Our path is dimmed by tears, our world cries out in pain,
we long for heaven’s peace; deliver us, again.

Chorus: ***How Long, O Lord, till you make things right?***
How Long, O Lord, till our faith is sight?
How Long, O Lord, till your kingdom comes? Lord Jesus, come.

2. ***When will the sick be healed? When will our sadness end?***
When will your light reveal the beauty of your plan?
When will our hatred cease? When will your justice reign?
When will your enemies revere your holy name? *(to chorus)*

3. ***You surely know our grief, our sorrows you endured;***
your Spirit intercedes with groans too deep for words.
Now make us sure in hope, steadfast until the end;
we wait upon you, Lord, and trust your sovereign hand. *(to chorus)*

Words & Music: Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker, Laura Story © 2023 Getty Music Publishing/Matthew Merker Music/Jordan Kauflin Music/ Getty Music Hymns and Songs/Laura’s Stories and Songs

Redemption

Our World Belongs to God, art.18

18. **While justly angry,**
God did not turn away from a world bent on destruction
but turned to face it in love.
With patience and tender care
the Lord set out on the long road of redemption
to reclaim the lost as his people
and the world as his kingdom.

Song: “Imagine” LUYH 72:1

Our World Belongs to God, art.19-22

19. Although Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden
and their days burdened by the weight of sin,
the Lord held on to them in love
and promised to crush the evil forces they had unleashed.

Sung Refrain: “I Am Your God; You Are My People” LUYH 36

6. We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness, and dedicate ourselves to holy living.
As covenant partners, set free for joyful obedience,
we offer our hearts and lives to do God’s work in the world.
With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.
We are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Our world belongs to you.

Song: “The Day of the Lord (Psalm 37)”

1. ***It’s not long ’til the boastful are silenced and shamed.***
It’s not long ’til the wealth of the wicked’s reclaimed.
And the ones who have waited with eyes on the Lord
will shine like the sun forevermore.
It’s not long till the day of the Lord!

2. ***Just be still and be faithful and dwell in the land.***
Put your trust in the Savior and cling to his hand.
When your heart burns with anger for all that is wrong,
do not let the dark steal your song.
It’s not long till the day of the Lord!

Chorus: ***It’s not long till the day of the Lord,***
it’s not long till the day of the Lord!
Everything that is broken will soon be restored.
It’s not long till the day of the Lord!

3. ***Do not fear for the wicked with weapons of war,***
for the Lord is the shelter and strength of the poor.
And our God comes with laughter, let him be your joy.
The power of the sword, he’ll destroy.
It’s not long till the day of the Lord! *(to chorus)*

Words and music by Wendell Kimbrough, © 2017 Wendell Kimbrough

Creation

Our World Belongs to God, art.7-10

7. Our world belongs to God—
not to us or earthly powers, not to demons, fate, or chance.
The earth is the Lord’s.

8. In the beginning, God—Father, Word, and Spirit—
called this world into being out of nothing,
and gave it shape and order.
9. God formed sky, land, and sea; stars above, moon and sun,
making a world of color, beauty, and variety—
a fitting home for plants and animals, and us—
a place to work and play,
worship and wonder, love and laugh.
God rested and gave us rest.
In the beginning everything was very good
10. Made in God's image to live in loving communion with our Maker,
we are appointed earthkeepers and caretakers
to tend the earth, enjoy it, and love our neighbors.
God uses our skills for the unfolding and well-being of his world
so that creation and all who live in it may flourish.

Song: "For the Beauty of the Earth" LUYH 19:1-4

Our World Belongs to God, art.11-12

11. Together, male and female, single and married, young and old—
every hue and variety of humanity—
we are called to represent God, for the Lord God made us all.
Life is God's gift to us,
and we are called to foster the well-being of all the living,
protecting from harm the unborn and the weak,
the poor and the vulnerable.
12. Even now, as history unfolds in ways we know only in part,
we are assured that God is with us in our world,
holding all things in tender embrace
and bending them to his purpose.
The confidence that the Lord is faithful
gives meaning to our days and hope to our years.
The future is secure,
for our world belongs to God.

Song: "He Will Keep You (Psalm 121)"

1. ***I lift my eyes and see, I need not be afraid.***
All my help comes from the Lord, who the earth and sky has made.

Chorus: ***He will keep you from all evils, behind you and before.***
He will sustain you, through this journey from now and evermore.

2. ***The Lord will never sleep, my steps He has ordained.***
For the One who holds the night is the Sovereign of my days. *(to chorus)*

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Evening Prayer with the Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Fall

Our World Belongs to God, art.13-17

13. In the beginning of human history, our first parents walked with God.
But rather than living by the Creator's word of life,
they listened to the serpent's lie and fell into sin.
In their rebellion they tried to be like God.
As sinners, Adam and Eve feared the nearness of God and hid.
14. Fallen in that first sin, we prove each day
that apart from grace we are guilty sinners:
we fail to thank God, we break God's laws, we ignore our tasks.
Looking for life without God, we find death;
grasping for freedom outside the law, we trap ourselves in Satan's snares;
pursuing pleasure, we lose the gift of joy.
15. ***Women:*** **When humans deface God's image,**
the whole world suffers:
we abuse the creation or idolize it;
we are estranged from our Creator,
from our neighbor, from our true selves,
and from all that God has made.
16. All spheres of life—
family and friendship, work and worship, school and state, play and art—
bear the wounds of our rebellion.
Sin is present everywhere—
in pride of race, arrogance of nations, abuse of the weak and helpless,
disregard for water, air, and soil, destruction of living creatures,
slavery, murder, terror, and war, worship of false gods,
the mistreatment of our bodies, and our frantic efforts to escape reality.
We become victims of our own sin.
17. ***Men:*** **In all our striving to excuse or save ourselves,**
we stand condemned before the God of truth.
But our world, broken and scarred, still belongs to God,
who holds it together and gives us hope.