Our World Belongs to God

November 8, 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.

Worship Participants

Piano/Organ: Shannon Schreurs, Laurey Zwart ✦ Readers: Cal & Sally Jongsma, Trena Van Wyk
Artist: Jake Van Wyk
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.

God Gathers Us for Worship

Welcome & Opening Prayer

*Opening Song: “The Heavens Declare Your Glory” LUYH 3

Christ

Our World Belongs to God, art.23-24

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

24. As the second Adam, Jesus chose the path we had rejected.
In his baptism and temptation, teaching and miracles,
battles with demons and friendships with sinners,
Jesus lived a full and righteous human life before us.
As God’s true Son, he lovingly obeyed the Father
and made present in deed and word the coming rule of God.

Song: “Creation Sings the Father’s Song”

1. ***Creation sings the Father's song; He calls the sun to wake the dawn***
and run the course of day till evening falls in crimson rays.
His fingerprints in flakes of snow, His breath upon this spinning globe,
He charts the eagle's flight; commands the newborn baby's cry.

Chorus: ***Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing, “Hallelujah!”***
Fill the earth with songs of worship; tell the wonders of creation's King.

2. ***Creation gazed upon His face; the ageless One in time's embrace***
unveiled the Father's plan of reconciling God and man.
A second Adam walked the earth,
whose blameless life would break the curse,
whose death would set us free to live with Him eternally. *(to chorus)*

3. ***Creation longs for His return, when Christ shall reign upon the earth;***
the bitter wars that rage are birth pains of a coming age.
When He renews the land and sky, all heaven will sing and earth reply
with one resplendent theme: the glory of our God and King! *(to chorus)*

Words and Music: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, © 2008 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Our World Belongs to God, art.32

32. The Bible is the Word of God,
the record and tool of his redeeming work.
It is the Word of truth, breath of God,
fully reliable in leading us to know God
and to walk with Jesus Christ in new life.

Song: “O Word of God Incarnate” LUYH 757:1-2

Our World Belongs to God, art.33

33. The Bible tells the story of God's mighty acts
in the unfolding of covenant history.
As one revelation in two testaments
the Bible reveals God’s will and the sweep of God’s redeeming work.
Illumined and equipped by the Spirit,
disciples of Jesus hear and do the Word,
witnessing to the good news
that our world belongs to God,
who loves it deeply.

Charge: Matthew 28:19-20 p.1550

*Song: “I Love to Tell the Story” LUYH 262:2-3

Our World Belongs to God, art.25-26

25. Standing in our place, Jesus suffered during his years on earth,
especially in the tortures of the cross.
He carried God's judgment on our sin—
his sacrifice removed our guilt.
God raised him from the dead: he walked out of the grave,
conqueror of sin and death—Lord of Life!
We are set right with God, given new life,
and called to walk with him in freedom from sin's dominion.

26. Being both divine and human, Jesus is the only mediator.
He alone paid the debt of our sin; there is no other Savior.
We are chosen in Christ to become like him in every way.
God's electing love sustains our hope:
God's grace is free to save sinners who offer nothing
but their need for mercy.

Song: "Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand" LUYH 708

Our World Belongs to God, art.27

27. Jesus ascended in triumph, raising our humanity to the heavenly throne.
All authority, glory, and sovereign power are given to him.
There he hears our prayers
and pleads our cause before the Father.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Song: "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" LUYH 884

Evening Prayer

Song: "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" LUYH 884

The Spirit

Our World Belongs to God, art.28

28. At Pentecost, promises old and new are fulfilled.
The ascended Jesus becomes the baptizer,
drenching his followers with his Spirit,
creating a new community
where Father, Son, and Holy Spirit make their home.
Revived and filled with the breath of God,
women and men, young and old, dream dreams and see visions.

Song: "Send Us Your Spirit" LUYH 228:1-2

Our World Belongs to God, art.29

29. The Spirit renews our hearts and moves us to faith,
leads us into truth, and helps us to pray,
stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.
God the Spirit lavishes gifts on the church in astonishing variety—
prophecy, encouragement, healing, teaching, service, tongues, discernment—
equipping each member to build up the body of Christ
and to serve our neighbors.

Song: "Spirit of the Living God" LUYH 749

Our World Belongs to God, art.30

30. The Spirit gathers people from every tongue, tribe, and nation
into the unity of the body of Christ.
Anointed and sent by the Spirit,
the church is thrust into the world, ambassadors of God's peace,
announcing forgiveness and reconciliation,
proclaiming the good news of grace.
Going before them and with them,
the Spirit convinces the world of sin and pleads the cause of Christ.
Men and women, impelled by the Spirit, go next door and far away
into science and art, media and marketplace—every area of life,
pointing to the reign of God with what they do and say.

Song: "The First Place" LUYH 15

Revelation

Our World Belongs to God, art.31

31. God gives this world many ways to know him.
The creation shows his power and majesty.
He speaks through prophets, poets, and apostles,
and, most eloquently, through the Son.
The Spirit, active from the beginning,
moved human beings to write the Word of God
and opens our hearts to God's voice.

Song: "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" LUYH 751