

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!  
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!  
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.  
Our hope for a new creation is not tied  
to what humans can do,  
for we believe that one day  
every challenge to God's rule will be crushed.  
His kingdom will fully come,  
and our Lord will rule.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

—*Our World Belongs to God*, st. 1-2, 27, 55. *Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony*, Second Edition, adopted by the Christian Reformed Church in North America in 2008. © 2008, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Grand Rapids, Mich. A

If only I possessed the grace, good Jesus,  
to be utterly at one with you!

Amidst all the variety of world things around me,  
Lord, the only thing I crave is you.

You are all my soul needs.

Unite, dear friend of my heart,  
this unique little soul of mine to your perfect goodness.

You are all mine;  
when shall I be yours?

Lord Jesus, my beloved,  
be the magnet of my heart;  
clasp, press, unite me for ever to your sacred heart.

You have made me for yourself;  
make me one with you.

Francis de Sales (1567 – 1622)