

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—
which some seek to control, and others view with despair—
we pray with joy and trust and thanksgiving:
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 already begun!
The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed!
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Our world belongs to God!

**Jesus ascended in triumph, raising our humanity to the heavenly throne.
All authority, glory, and sovereign power are given to Christ.
Our Lord and King hears our prayers and pleads our cause before the Father.
Blessed are all who take refuge in Him.
Our world belongs to God!**

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!

We pray in Your name, O Christ, our sovereign servant King.

We pray that each of us will understand
that our ordinary lives are pleasing to Christ, our King,
Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That all leaders in government will realize
that the ordinary people in our country are important,
Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all those people who are very ordinary but also are extraordinary
because of the way they care for God's people,
Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For people who are sick and unable to do the ordinary things they used to do, that they will be patient with themselves and with those who care for them, and for those we remember by name and by heart (whisper the names of those You bring)

- Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For people whose lives are recorded in our newspapers and magazines, those who commit acts of abuse and disregard, may they find both justice and healing;
for those whose lives have been damaged by others, may they find healing and grace and safety.

- Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those brothers and sisters in Christ who face persecution for their faith we pray. We pray especially today for Dr. Ken Elliot's release from kidnapping by Al-Qeda, and for protection upon his wife Jocelyn. We pray for Christians in China, and especially the members of the Hongen and Cangu congregations, to be protected and allowed to worship freely in the name of Jesus Christ.

- Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, hear our prayers and the prayers of all Your people.
Hear our prayers for ourselves.

Help us to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ our Lord and King.

Help us to be faithful in ordinary ways,

courageous and kind, loving and caring, trusting in Your greatness and glory.

Hold us in Your grace, and keep our eyes upon You and the truth that You are King of kings and Lord of lords.

Open the eyes of our hearts, and give us confident hope in Your power and presence. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Our world belongs to God!

- Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son and our King. **Amen.**

