

# SUNDAY ARTICLE

ST DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ♦ 25 FEBRUARY 2018

**There are many denominations that belong to the Presbyterian and Reformed family around the world. Is there an international body in which they can stand in unity? Yes: the *World Reformed Fellowship*. Thankfully, it has not become compromised, as many global movements tend to, and the *Presbyterian Church of Australia* is a member. It is through this *Fellowship* that we are participating in the *Global Hymn Sing* today.**



PCA ministers, elders, musicians,

My request is that your congregation might join with thousands of congregations from over 60 nations...in the singing of "Jesus shall reign where're the sun". It's just a small gesture of world Christian fellowship, but a meaningful one.

We are a denominational member of the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF), and I commend this invitation to celebrate in your congregation in solidarity with many across the Christian world. See if you could build this into the order of worship for Sunday 25 February...

From WRF:

What a remarkable opportunity to unite in singing the praise of Jesus Christ! We urge you to be sure that you personally and that your church signs up and participates in this glorious event.

Isaac Watts' amazing composition from the 18th century gave to the church a song considered by many to be the first great missionary

hymn. It was written at a time (1719) when the church was doing little missionary work. He longed to see a day when Jesus would reign throughout the world, wherever the sun shines, from shore to shore. He dreamed of a time when all people, people of all languages, would praise Jesus' name.

...As the sun makes its journey around the world on a Sunday morning, Christians in every time zone rise to go to church to praise Jesus Christ.

Warm regards,

John

Rt Rev John P Wilson

Moderator-General

Presbyterian Church of Australia



29% of the world's population live in places where they have little or no access to a Bible, a church, or a believer. That's over 2 billion individuals, or 6,900 people groups, that are considered unreached and in need of someone sent from outside their community to share Jesus with them.

This year, on February 25, we want to invite your church to join thousands across the globe from many nations to lift voices together and sing this setting of Psalm 72, proclaiming in faith that one day:

*"Jesus shall reign where're the sun,  
Does its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more."*

Keith Getty  
Getty Music

# WORLD REFORMED FELLOWSHIP

## Why a World Reformed Fellowship?

The mission of the World Reformed Fellowship is to promote understanding, cooperation and sharing of resources among our membership of evangelical and reformed Christians in the advancement of the Gospel.

The vision of the WRF is simple – “That the strengths of some might become the strengths of all in the service of Jesus Christ” (see Paul's prayer in Ephesians 4: 11-13).

## The Biblical and Confessional Foundation of the World Reformed Fellowship

The WRF vision is to live out one of the clearly stated but often neglected themes of the great Reformed confessions of the church. The Westminster Confession of Faith (XXV, 2) affirms that there is “a visible universal church which consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion.” The Belgic Confession (Article 27) emphasizes that “the one single catholic or universal church...is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain persons. But it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world.”

While specific regional or national expressions of the universal church do, in many ways, embody characteristics of the Body of Christ, there are other characteristics of that Body which transcend those expressions. It is those other characteristics that the WRF seeks to set forth in its commitments and in its activities.

## The Affirmations of the World Reformed Fellowship

- The essence of the true religion (and of Reformed theology) is adoration and worship of the Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- This Triune God is worthy of the praise and service of all of creation
- Christians in many places and many denominations who share these first two commitments will find their worship and service of the Lord God enhanced by contact with others of like mind

## The Formal Doctrinal Basis of the World Reformed Fellowship

- We affirm the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the God-breathed Word of God, without error in all that it affirms.

- We stand in the mainstream of the historic Christian Faith in affirming the following catholic creeds of the Early Church: The Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Chalcedonian Definition.
- More specifically, every voting member of the WRF affirms one of the following historic expressions of the Reformed Faith: The Gallican Confession, The Belgic Confession, The Heidelberg Catechism, The Thirty-Nine Articles, The Second Helvetic Confession, The Canons of Dort, The Westminster Confession of Faith, the London Confession of 1689, the Savoy Declaration, or the WRF Statement of Faith (available on website).

## The Services of the World Reformed Fellowship

For those who share our affirmations and our doctrinal base, the World Reformed Fellowship seeks to provide:

- A network for communication and sharing of ministry resources among such Christians
- A forum for dialogue among such Christians on current issues
- The opportunity for such Christians from one region of the world to share their unique spiritual and theological perspectives with such Christians from other regions of the world, all within the framework of the evangelical Reformed faith
- Regular occasions, some for such Christians in specific regions of the world and some for such Christians world-wide, to come together for worship and dialogue and resource-sharing

## The Structure and the By-Laws of the World Reformed Fellowship

The WRF holds General Assemblies at least once every four years. The most recent General Assembly met in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from March 23 through March 27, 2015. At General Assemblies, all WRF members vote on major policy issues and elect the members of the WRF Executive Committee. Also at General Assemblies, issues of importance for the evangelical Reformed church world-wide are addressed.

Source: <http://wrfnet.org/about/case-statement#.Wot-WyGaQ31I>

For the complete library of St David's Articles, please go to [rest.org.au](http://rest.org.au)

**Kindly pass on this article.**