

Together with the Churches of the World

2023 Sunday Prayer Worship for  
Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula

“Seek Peace and Pursue It.”  
(Psalm 34:14)



Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023



National Council of Churches in Korea  
Reconciliation and Reunification Committee

## Theme/ Lectionary

“Seek peace, and pursue it.”  
(Psalm 34:14)

## Goals

1. To pray, with all the churches of the world, for the reconciliation and healing of the divided Korean peninsula
2. To overcome the South/North antagonism and conflict by actualizing the spirit of the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Declaration
3. To foster an environment which will establish a permanent peace system on the Korean peninsula by ending war and concluding a Korea peace treaty
4. To create a spirit of cooperation and solidarity among the churches of the world who pray for peace and reunification of the Korean Peninsula as well as for peace in the global village

## Background

1. August 15 is celebrated as Liberation Day in Korea, the day that signifies Korea's liberation from Japanese colonization.
2. In 2013, the WCC 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Busan, Korea passed a resolution that the churches of the world will annually observe each Sunday prior to August 15 as a “Sunday of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula.”
3. The Reconciliation and Reunification Committee of the NCKK drafted this liturgy in the hopes that each church could apply it with reference to their own situation.
4. The Joint Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula was prepared by both the NCKK (South) and the Korean Christian Federation (North) together.
5. In 2018 the two leaders from North and South Korea met and adopted the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Declaration. In order to fully actualize the spirit of these two declarations, NCKK declared a People's Korea Peace Agreement and is currently “Global Church 1 Million Signature Campaign.” Please join this signature campaign with your neighbors, relatives and neighboring communities. Peace is approaching us.

# 2023 Sunday Prayer Worship for Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula

## {Order of Worship}

Sounding of the Gong (Praying for the presence of the Trinity God - 3 strikes)

Call to Worship (Please stand)

Liturgist: God of creation, you brought life to all that we see. You set the boundaries of the universe and placed us within its care.

Congregation: Creator God, breathe life into your creation.

L: Holy Spirit, you bind your children together in community. Your bonds transcend borders created by humankind. You kindle the fire within us that stirs our passion for faith, justice, and reconciliation.

C: Spirit God, inspire us to reconciliation.

L: Jesus the Christ, you came to teach and to lead. You showed us the cost of discipleship when you stood up against the powers of the world, and they tried to suppress your truth by sentencing you to death. Your life was more powerful than death and your truth lives on in us.

C: Jesus the Christ, help us reflect your light of truth and peace.

Opening Hymn:

“Ososo Ososo”

**214** **Ososō ososō**  
 Komm nun, Fürst / Come now, O Prince Korea

1 O - so - sō - - o - so - sō,  
 2 Komm nun, Fürst des Frie - dens, ein'  
 3 Come now, O Prince of peace,

pyōng - hwa - ūi - - im - gūm u - ri - ga  
 uns zu dei-nem Lei - be, komm, Herr Je - sus,  
 make us 7 one bod - y, come, O Lord

han - mom i - ru - ge ha - - so - sō.  
 komm, ver - sōh - ne dir all dein Volk.  
 Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.

L: God, please be with your people in Korea as they open a new era of peace, prosperity and reunification. Empower the Church in North and South to uphold the spirit of the Panmunjom Declaration and work until this spirit permeates all levels of their life. Show them the path to the land where they will study war no more, where the Korean peninsula becomes one in peace again.

C: God of the Holy Trinity, please be with us. (Please be seated)

### Confession of Sin

L: God of forgiveness, we often stray from your path. As soon as we begin the journey we become easily distracted. We flirt with ideologies that distort your reality. We reduce our neighbor to an enemy image when we should honor each other as beloved children of God. We neglect our neighbor's needs and place our own interests as an idol above your commandment to reconciliation. We ignore our neighbors' wounds and claim that, "God only cares about my suffering." We take steps in the direction you lead us sometimes, but we become tired and lose energy. We lose faith in your ability to carry us on your path when your living water should fill us with all that we need. God, please turn us back to your path and fill us with the strength to persist. In your mercy, unite us as one.

Sung Confession: "Jesus, Remember Me"

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

5

Je - sus re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Words: Luke 23:42  
 Music: Taizé Community, 1998

Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Now extend this same grace to your neighbors around you.

Sung Response: "Laudate Omnes Gentes"

♩-63

Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num, Lau -  
 주 님 을 찬 양 하 라 온 세 상 이 - 여 주

- da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -  
 님 을 찬 양 하 라 온 세 상 이 - 여 주

{Hearing the Word}

Prayer of the Day

New Testament Reading: Psalm 34:14

“Seek peace, and pursue it.” (NRSV)

Sermon

Suggested theme: “Seek Peace and Pursue It”

{Thanksgiving and Response}

2019 North South/South North Joint Prayer for Peaceful Reunification

Lord, we were once one country. We were one 100 years ago when we cried out for Korean independence against the tyranny of Japanese imperialism. We were one when we broke the 36-year-old chain and cried for freedom at every corner of the Korean Peninsula. We had been one for 5,000 years. Thank you, Lord, for the grace that led us to be one.

Lord, we were divided by foreign forces. Although we have struggled to create a world where one could freely move around without erecting barriers or division, yet even in the excitement of liberation from Japanese colonial rule, there is division behind great wounds. We did not want a disconnected relationship. However, the surrounding foreign powers turned a blind eye to our aspirations in pursuit of their own interests. The excitement of Korea's independence soon became a painful part of our history. O Lord, listen to our prayers that we may become one again.

Lord, we beseech you. Let us never again attempt war on this land, and let us establish our own permanent and peaceful regime that no foreign powers can avail. Even if the strong nations are indifferent to our peace and security preferring their own interests, no forces can stop us from marching toward peace if we keep our hearts, our wills, and our strength united. Let us remind ourselves that we must carve out our own destiny. Lord, make us one.

Lord, we pray that the South and the North, the North and the South will live leaning on each other. We pray that if the South is in need, then the North can provide, and if the North is in need, then the South can provide, so that we may live helping each other. The South and the North, the North and South, want to build a happy and prosperous world. In a world of fierce global competition, we believe that promoting common prosperity between North-South/South-North is the only way to live, and believe in the wisdom of co-prosperity that promises future stability and abundance. With this wisdom, let us resume the Kaesong Industrial Complex, which has been closed for too long, and allow us to revisit the scenic beauty of Mt. Kumgang that it may no longer be neglected. Do not let us fall into the folly of misgauging either our ability or our obligation, and give us the courage to boldly carry them out for the sake of the co-prosperity of South and North/North and South.

Lord, hear the prayers of the beloved Christians throughout the world for peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula. May the people of the North and South/South and North meet each other with a smile, and may North Korea and the U.S. establish a peace treaty by ending the state of hostilities. Peace is what the South and North/North and South wish to share in accordance with our own will. Lord, give us peace. May there be no power able to block the grace of the Lord of Peace. Let us not shirk our obligation or delay for any reason. Now in this moment, give us faith with the ability to love. Let the fervent prayers of Christians all over the world bloom in our hearts, and in every corner of the Korean Peninsula as a flower of hope.

Lord, may this prayer on this day, flowing from Baekdu to Halla, resonate from every point throughout the world, so that the breath of Christians of the North and South/South and North will be restored with the energy of peace and reunification.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray.---  
 (This prayer was written jointly by the Korean Christian Federation Central Committee of North Korea and the National Council of Churches in Korea of South Korea)

Response to Prayer: "I Give My Peace unto You"

below...

D F#m Em A7  
 평 안 을 너 에 게 주 노 라 세 상  
 My - Peace I - give un-to you It's a  
  
 D F#m Em A7 G  
 이 줄 - 수 없 - 는 세 상 이 알 수  
 Peace That the world can not give It's a Peace That the  
  
 F#m Bm G A  
 도 없 는 평 - 안 평 - 안  
 world can not understand - - Peace to know  
  
 F#m Bm Em A G D  
 평 - 안 평 안 을 네 게 주 노 라  
 Peace to live My - Peace I give un-to you

Offering

{Sending to the World}

Sharing of Peace

L: God grants us peace not so that we can hide it away in a dark room to keep ourselves comfortable. God grants us peace so that we may share it with all those around us,

neighbors near and far. God calls us to take this peace into uncomfortable situations of conflict. It is a peace that passes all understanding. It is a peace more powerful than all machinations of violence. It is a peace that challenges dangerous idolatries. It is a peace that binds us together even across boundaries of conflict. May that peace fill you up until it overflows. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

All: Now, filled with the transcendent peace of God, reach out and share it with those next to you.

(Everyone exchanges the sign of peace according to one's own custom.)

Closing Hymn: "The Peace of the Earth"

PEACE

820 The Peace of the Earth / La Paz de la Tierra

The peace of the earth be with you, the  
*La paz de la tie-rra es - té con ti - go, la*

peace of the heav - ens, too. The peace of the riv - ers  
*paz de los cie-los tam - bién. La paz de los rí-os es -*

be with you, the peace of the o - ceans, too:  
*té con ti - go, la paz de los ma-res tam - bién. La*

deep peace fall - ing o - ver you,  
*paz pro - fun - da ca - yen - do so - bre ti. La*

God's peace grow - ing in you.  
*paz pro - fun - da cre - cien - do en ti.*

Text: Traditional Guatemalan; trans. by Christine Carson  
 Tune: Traditional Guatemalan; arr. by John L. Bell, b.1949  
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Blessing (can be read by leader or in unison)

All: May the blessing of God be with you all. May the healing of God restore your wounds. May the peace of God transform your communities in conflict so they may become communities of God's commonwealth; a commonwealth where all God's children receive the bread and water they need to survive and live life in abundance. May the

Korean peninsula become one again. May God grant you the power to go out into this world and join God in the work of cultivating this peace. Amen.

*Concluding note from NCKK to our partners:*

Please participate in the Korea Peace Appeal Campaign:

<https://forms.gle/ijY3rVrfZtsMwFjT7>

If you have used this service, we thank you. Please send a brief note to Kurt at [kurt.pcusa.nckk@gmail.com](mailto:kurt.pcusa.nckk@gmail.com) so that we will have a record. In addition, the NCKK welcomes any suggestions for improvement.