

Together with the Churches of the World

**2018 Sunday Prayer Worship for
Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula**

**“Let Us Pursue
What Makes for Peace
and for Mutual Upbuilding.” (Romans 14:19)**



Sunday, August 12th, 2018



National Council of Churches in Korea
Reconciliation and Reunification Committee

Theme/ Lectionary

“Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.” (Romans 14:19)

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
3. To foster an environment which will establish a permanent peace system on the Korean peninsula by 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
- 5.

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 10th 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. On April 27, 2018 two leaders from North and South Korea met in Panmunjom and adopted the Panmunjom Declaration. Korean people together with the whole world celebrated and affirmed the Declaration as it paves a new way to peace, prosperity, and unification of the divided Korea. The NCKK together with the global ecumenical community will consolidate all its effort to actualize the spirit of the Panmunjom Declaration.

2018 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 Ososó ososó
Komm nun, Fürst / Come now, O Prince Korea

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

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

han - mom i - ru - ge ha - - so - só.
komm, ver - söh - 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.

C: God have mercy. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

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

Sung Response: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

hal - le -

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le -

hal - le -

lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Fine

{Hearing the Word}

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:6

I am going to bring it recovery and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security. (NRSV)

New Testament Reading: Romans 14:19

Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. (NRSV)

Sermon “Let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.”

{Thanksgiving and Response}

2018 North South/South North Joint Prayer for Peaceful Reunification

God of love!

We thank you Lord that Christians in North and South Korea who live in the same land, under the same heavens once again greet this year's Liberation Day. Though August visits us every year, we have long forgotten that overwhelming moment of the past. For the last 73 years of separation, while in constant conflict with each other, we have failed to embrace each other with love. Lord, have mercy on us.

God of history!

We greet this year's Liberation Day with new hope. The period of separation, war and hostile confrontation that our people went through is dimly fading away and we now look at the rainbow of peace and prosperity stretching over Mount Halla to Mount Baekdu. God, who rules history, lead this land to greet a new history of peace, unification and prosperity.

God of peace!

Help us overcome with strength the many walls and high barriers that still remain. The historical meeting between the North and South Korean leaders has taken place in Panmunjom, once a site of separation and conflict, and now with the signing of the Panmunjom Declaration, the two Koreas have finally taken a step towards reconciliation. But the walls of separation and the embers of war still remain. We pray that by completely removing any contemptible barriers of separation that threaten the people's livelihood and block common prosperity, you bring long lasting peace that may be a stepping stone for peace not only in the Peninsula, but in Northeast Asia and the entire world.

God of hope!

We pray that we strive for bigger dreams. Though our people once shared a 5000-year-long history, we have lived in separation for the last 70 years. We can no longer be forced to suffer the misfortunes and pains of separation. Help our people greet a turning point in history at this new crossroad. Lead us to open our hearts and join shoulder to shoulder to envision a new road of strong peace and stable prosperity that will lead to unification.

God of creation!

With faith we have seen that Panmunjom, once a site of separation and confrontation has now become a place that signals the beginning of peace, unification and prosperity. Now let the peace conceived in Panmunjom blossom and bear the fruits of peace and unification which our people have so long yearned for. Give us peace and courage so that the Christians of the North, the South and the entire world work for the peace, unification and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and lead the Christians of the world so that they can actively support this mission.

In Jesus Christ's name we pray, Amen.

National Council of Churches in Korea

Korean Christian Federation Central Committee

Response to Prayer - O Lord, Hear My Prayer

1 O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer
 2 Gott, hör mein Ge - bet, Gott, hör mein Ge - bet:
 3 En - tends ma pri - ère, en - tends ma pri - ère:

when I call ans - wer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O
 Komm und er - hö - re mich. Gott, hör mein Ge - bet, Gott,
 Seig - neur viens, é - coute - moi, En - tends ma pri - ère, en -

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and li - sten to me.
 hör mein Ge - bet. Komm und er - hö - re mich.
 tends ma pri - ère, Quand j'ap - pelle, ré - ponds - moi.

Offering

Offering Hymn

{ 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 your sisters and brothers next to you.

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

Closing Hymn – Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

The image shows a musical score for a hymn in 3/4 time. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics in English and German. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F major/D minor). The lyrics are: "1 Put_ peace in - to each o - ther's hands and" and "2 Gebt euch den Frie - den in die Hand, um_". The second staff continues the lyrics: "like a trea - sure__ hold it, pro - tect it like a" and "ihn als Schatz zu__ wah - ren. Be - hü - tet zärt - lich". The third staff concludes the lyrics: "can - dle - flame, with ten - der - ness en - fold it." and "die - ses Licht, gebt Schutz ihm vor Ge - fah - - ren." The score includes various chords such as C, F, C, G7, Am, G, C, F, C, F, G4, C, F, C, Dm, C, E7, Am, C, Dm, C, G, Am, F, C.

Blessing (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:

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