

Together with the Churches of the World

2017 Sunday Prayer Worship for
Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula

**“Let Us Pursue
What Makes for Peace
and for Mutual Upbuilding.”**



Sunday, August 13th, 2017



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 opening an interaction between North and South
3. To foster an environment which will see peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula by concluding a 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 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. In 2017 the NCKK together with global ecumenical community has continued the Korea Peace Treaty campaign which will last until 2018. A Korea peace treaty will be a corner stone establishing the permanent peace system in the Korean peninsula.

2017 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 human kind. 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 – Chuyo Chuyo

(As found in Thuma Mina, 42)

Korea / Frankreich

I

1 Chu - yo chu - yo tu - ro chu - so - so
 2 Hö - re, hö - re uns, Gott, wir bit - ten dich!

II

Chu - yo chu - yo tu - ro chu - so - so
 Hö - re, hö - re uns, Gott, wir bit - ten dich!

L: God, please be with your people. Carry us through this wilderness of fear and cycles of retaliation. Show us the path to the land where we will study war no more, where the Korean peninsula becomes one again, and give us the strength to take every step.

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 a beloved child 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

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!' repeated in various parts across the systems. The final system ends with the word '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[d] 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}

2017 North South/South North Joint Prayer for Peaceful Reunification

16 Mortal, take a stick and write on it, "For Judah, and the Israelites associated with it"; then take another stick and write on it, "For Joseph (the stick of Ephraim) and all the house of Israel associated with it"; 17 and join them together into one stick, so that they may become one in your hand. (Ezekiel 37: 16-17, NRSV)

God of grace!

Once again, we greet the month of August, the month of Independence where North and South still celebrate separately and remember it differently. It has been a long, harsh period, one with cruel struggles between the two countries. No longer are we oppressed by Japanese forces, but our people are still filled with contempt for each other and our country is still challenged by neighboring forces. Lord, pity us.

God who rules history,

For the last 72 years, we dreamed of being one, but we lived like foes, not living up to our dreams. We lived separated from our family and torn apart by different ideology and systems. Lord, bring the history of our people together with your holy hands. Let us hope for unification with passionate hearts and work together so fervently that we shed the sweat of hope. For every August we encounter, help us sincerely repent with our hearts, and fill us with a strong will for unification.

God who leads peace,

Lord, we speak of one people, one sisterhood/brotherhood while filled with hatred against each other. We have violated the spirit of the Inter-Korean Basic Agreement, the June 15 Joint Declaration, and the October 4 Joint Declaration and also firmly locked the doors of the Keumkang Mt. and Gaeseong Industrial Complex. Thus, we were left with a greater danger and greater threat. Lord, listen to our desperate cries that thirst for peace.

God who gives hope,

Lord, help us to dream once more of a beautiful land where no joint-military exercise is needed. Let us welcome a new world where we are not interfered with or challenged by neighboring strong powers. Let us once again begin with the same overwhelming determination we had as of August 15, 1945. Please quickly open the doors of intercommunication and let us walk hand in hand for joint prosperity. Lord, let the North and South greet each other without prejudice. Help us newly begin a history of reconciliation and embracement on this land.

God of grace!

Bestow your grace upon the whole of Korea. Shine down pure rays of peace from Baekdu to Halla, and wet the entire land with showers of joy. Give happiness to the 80 million fellow Koreans throughout this land and this world, and guide them to be leaders of their own lives. Bring our strengthened community to be servants of the world.

God of Peace, we pray in Jesus name.

August 15, 2017

National Council of Churches in Korea

Korean Christian Federation

Response to Prayer - O Lord, hear my prayer

(As found in Thuma Mina, 257)

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.

© 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent.

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 (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) and musical notations such as triplets and fermatas.

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 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, if you would like to give any suggestions for improvement, NCKK would very much like to hear them.