Prayers for Korea

Prayers for peace in Korean Peninsula

Prayer by Dr. Sang Chang, president of the World Council of Churches Asia region

Liturgy from the National Council of Churches in USA

God of life, God of peace, God of justice!

Together we pray for the people of Korea,
in the north and in the south,
for young and old,
for women and men,
for the powerful and the powerless,
for those who have a strong faith and those who have lost hope,
for all
who thirst and long for peace,
for a just peace,
for a sustainable, lasting peace
that can bring the gifts of renewed kinship and friendship,
for a peace in the mind and peace in the land
so that the peninsula and the people of Korea
can be a sign
of the justice, hope and joy of your eternal reign.
God in your mercy!

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches

God of life,

We bring before you the people in Korea, from Umggi in the Northeast to Seogwipo on Jeju Island in the South. You know them by name. You know of their suffering over centuries, their longing for freedom and for self-determination. You know their journey since 1950 when the war began – a war that did not end since then.

We stand in solidarity with your people on the Korean Peninsula and we pray for peace and justice, for an end of the threats of nuclear weapons and all kinds of military actions, for the right of self-determination for the people in Korea and for a future of hope.

Jesus, redeemer of the world

We bring before you the people in Korea, from Umggi in the Northeast to Seogwipo on Jeju Island in the South. You know them by name. You know of their hurts because of all the injustices and divisions they have been facing. Families divided, not knowing of one another’s joys and pains. Prejudices are bearing bitter fruits of fear of the others.

We stand in solidarity with your people on the Korean Peninsula and pray for an end of this division, for ways to get to know one another and to recognize the brother, the sister, for reconciliation and for healing.

Holy Spirit, source of new beginnings

We bring before you the people in Korea, from Umggi in the Northeast to Seogwipo on Jeju Island in the South. You know them by name in their longing for life in abundance and in restored relationships. And you know of the suffering of the earth because of the military presence and the exploitation of natural resources.

We stand in solidarity with your people on the Korean Peninsula and we pray for healing, not only of the souls, but also of the nature and for new ways of living in harmony with one another and with mother earth.

Triune God, God of mercy, justice and peace, hear our prayer.

Bishop Rosemarie Wenner, World Methodist Council, Geneva Secretary
Prayer for peace on the Korean peninsula

We pray to you, thinking of Koreans who have been hurt by long division and fear of war. Divided reality has given people unbelief and pains too long.

This reality is on-going suffering and it causes our pain and struggles in the communion of the global church.

Lord, Peace on the Korean peninsula is not just theirs. The peace of the world can be made closer through peace on the Korean peninsula.

Now, we join a campaign to remember the 70th years of Korean War and to engage the world churches for the support of peace treaty and reconciliation of North and South Korea. Bless this historic moment as the Korean church and the world church are joining again for this significant liberation and freedom.

Do you remember the many people who have lived a scissored life every day? How long, Lord?

Tears shed so long and it shed to all over the world, as they struggle and miss our separated family and friends.

We thanked the Lord to see the leaders of the South and the North Korea stopping the cold war and talk and exchange with such visionary stage. We thrilled to see the Lord grant the initial step toward the peace to the Korean peninsula after seeing the leaders of North Korea and the United States meet and share a dream of reconciliation.

Lord, May you be a mediator. And create a relationship of reconciliation, not a tragedy and confrontation anymore.

Use your cross as a sign of the end of division and help us to begin to love one another. Help the Christians scattered around the world to share in the 2020 year for building the peace and reconciliation.

We pray earnestly in the name of the Lord. Amen

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, presiding bishop of Wisconsin Annual Conference and president of General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church

Lord Jesus Christ, our God,

You said to Your disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.” We come before You in humility and ask that Your peace which surpasses all understanding will descend upon all people around the world, especially those currently in conflict and at war. Increase understanding and forgiveness between nations. Awaken the longing for a peaceful life in all those who are filled with hatred for their neighbor. Extinguish every dispute and banish all temptations to disagreement. Grant wisdom to civil authorities. Free those held captive, protect those in danger, and comfort those who are suffering and displaced. Implant in all of us reverence for You, and confirm us in love for one another. For You are the King of Peace and the Savior of our souls and to You we give glory together with Your eternal Father and Your most-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Archbishop Job, Ecumenical Patriarchate

A Prayer for the Peace of our Children “Lord! Help Us to Keep the Promise of Peace”

God,

We saw adults of South and North Korea met at Panmunjom

and promised peace two years ago.

But,

It is too sad that the promise of peace

is not yet fulfilled.

God,

We heard that the Panmunjom Declaration and Pyongyang Declaration

are the fastest way to reach the inter-Korean peace.

God,

We pray that we will be able to keep the promise of peace together with the cooperation of great powers around us.

God,

We are afraid that the promise of peace may not be kept and that North and South Korea might distrust each other again.

Let the South and the North unite with each other!
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen!

A Prayer for the Peace of our Youth and Young People “The 70th Anniversary of the Start of the Korean War: Prayer for the Reconciliation of the Korean Peninsula”

Eternal God,
Koreans are still suffering from the scars of war.
We often see the painful wounds of the past in the present whenever ideologies of division and confrontation, hostility and conflict block reconciliation and threaten peace.

God, who leads us to hope,
We pray that you give us the power of the Holy Spirit to restore all the broken things so that we may go forward to reconciliation and peace in the face of frustration and pain.

Just as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are united, and give the grace of eternity,
We pray that you give us a new day of grace for the South and the North to become one.
In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pray for the national reconciliation.
Amen!
Hae Rin Park, Vice President, NCCK and Jun Hyuk Son

God of love,

We confess
that we have been unable to love our enemies, as you have commanded.
We confess
that we have been more efficient in waging war than in negotiating peace.
We confess
that we have lost our trust in your guidance as the Lord of history.
Grant us faith
that peace is possible on the Korean Peninsula even after 70 years of war.
Grant us hope
that our feeble efforts to promote peace with justice will bear abundant fruit.
Grant us love
that encourages us to overcome suspicion and hatred with open hearts and minds.
Prince of Peace,
help us to discover the truth in ourselves so that we can become agents of reconciliation; pour your mercy upon Korea, and likewise on the rest of this troubled world.
Amen.

Erich Weingartner, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

A Prayer for A Nuclear-Free World*

God of freedom and liberation!

Facing the 93rd anniversary of the 1919 Independence Movement, we remember our ancestors, who believed in the God of the Exodus and courageously rose up toward a future of life.

With the sincere faith of conscience, and the hope of a joyful life for future generations, they declared this nation’s right to life, freedom and independence, and they prayed for true peace in Northeast Asia and the world.
But now at the start of the 21st century
we witness, with worried and fearful hearts,
that this beautiful peninsula is covered by the dark cloud of nuclear weapons and power plants.

In this land where Rachel’s lamenting over historical pains has not ceased,
and where the scars of suffering and wrongful death have not healed,
once again we see the shadow of death hanging over us.

On the current world historical stage,
North Korea has chosen nuclear weapons and South Korea has clung to nuclear energy.
The Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia
have become the world’s most dangerous nuclear minefield,
surrounded by nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants.

*O God, hear our prayers of lament and repentance!*

We lament the foolishness of humanity,
which despite the experience of two world wars in the 20th century,
is still caught in the vicious cycle of increasing wars and weaponry.

We repent that human greed and selfishness has led us
to pour astronomical amounts of money and resources into the arms race,
even as countless children are starving to death in our global village.

Awaken us to realize
that our true security lies not in nuclear weapons
but in trusting you and respecting our neighbors.

*O God, who watches the empires rise and fall!*

Grant wisdom to our governments and corporations,
that they may turn away from their worship of the idol of unlimited economic growth,
which makes the strong prey on the weak.

May they instead choose the way of cosmic truth:
the life of conviviality with all living beings, humans and nature.

As we confess and repent of our sins of greed and consumerism in pursuit of nuclear power, grant us humble hearts and simple lives.

Awaken us to know
that true wealth is found not in the accumulation of material goods
but in a creative, sharing life.

May we learn that nuclear weapons and nuclear energy are not compatible with peace.
Lead us to be free from nuclear preoccupation.

Awaken us to know that our true strength is not in nuclear power but in love and justice.

*O God, hear our prayers!*

Grant us the courage to go through the narrow gate that leads to life,
not the wide gate that leads to destruction (Mt 7:13-14).

May we leave to our children not a painful and terrible heritage, but a life that uses natural energy from your created sun, wind and water.

*O God, lead us Korean Christians
not to export nuclear power plants, an act that is contrary to your command of justice and love, but to live as your apostles of peace, teaching your life and peace.*

Remembering that on the cross our Lord shared the suffering of the nuclear radiation victims,
and hoping that a new heaven and new earth of life and peace may be realized
from Mount Halla in the south to Mount Paekdu in the north,
throughout Northeast Asia and all the earth,
we pray in the name of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Rev Dr Hyunju Bae, Presbyterian Church of Korea, Central Committee member of the WCC

("This prayer was written for the inaugural worship of the Korean Christian Network for a Nuclear-Free World,
also known as the Korean Network for a World Free of Nuclear Power and Weapons, on March 1, 2012, to
commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the 1919 Independence Movement against Japanese occupation and the
first anniversary of Fukushima nuclear reactor disaster at once. The original Korean version was translated into
English by Ms Maryon Kim, and modified by the author.)

Prayer for women and children in North Korea

Our Great God, Creator, and the Lord of the history,
We confess that all things belong to you,
and we want to bring everything back to you, especially our time and our possessions.
As you have loved us, help us to love our neighbour as ourselves.

We give you thanks and praise for the gifts of manna.
We ask you to bless the table of meals in which we will be able to share your love with our neighbours.
We pray that we may experience your love through our hands.
We also pray that you feed our brothers and sisters, who are starving, with your flesh and blood.
In Jesus’ precious name, we pray.
Amen!

Ms Young Soo Han President, KoreaYWCA

A Prayer for peace

Gracious God,

Lead us to peace and reunification! Our nation was once one country for over a thousand years during the Koryo and Joseon dynasties. However, foreign forces divided North and South Korea at the end of the Japanese occupation of Korea. Our nation is not just divided into two; but it went to war as if it displayed the pattern of the Cold War. The Korean War has deeply damaged both the North and the South, and we are not able to make progress towards peace and reunification because of the deep wounds. Lord, heal our deep wounds!

God of peace,

In the course of more than 70 years of division, there have been some efforts in the peace process. In 1972, we established the three principles of reunification, 1) independence, 2) peace, and 3) nation-wide unity in the 7.4 South and North Korea Joint Statement. In December 1991, we also signed the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Exchanges and Cooperation. In June 2000, the historic inter-Korean summit was held in Pyongyang, and the “6.15 Joint Declaration” was made. In 2007, the “10.4 Inter-Korean Joint Declaration” was adopted. Eventually, due to the atmosphere of reconciliation after the 2018 Pyongchang Olympics, the leaders of North and South Korea adopted the 4.27 Panmunjom Declaration. Nevertheless, the path of peace that we expected was more difficult than we thought. Lord, have mercy on us!

God of salvation,

The foundation of all the South-North joint declarations has been the principle of national independence, which determines our own destiny. We still confess that we are the masters of this land and we have to work together for our self-reunification. Sadly, we see foreign forces on our path to reunification, just as the foreign powers divided our division. Within the framework of UN sanctions, the attempts of the government of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) to break through the inter-Korean relations, including the inter-Korean railroad projects and inter-Korean exchange cooperation have been interfered with by the foreign forces. God! Guide the neighbouring powers to seek the interests of the Korean people above their own interests instead! Above all, May the South and the North take courageous steps toward peace and reunification with deep trust and patience in each other in spite of any foreign interference. May the churches of Korea carry the cross of peace, becoming a bridge of peace that fills the deep gaps of the South-North conflict because of the wounds of division! Lord, lead us to peace and reunification!

Amen!

Rev. Soon Jong Youg President, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

A Prayer by Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea

Prayer for an ending to the conflict between South and North Korea

Most merciful Lord, we confess to You, in a spirit of repentance and contrition, that even though 70 years have passed since the beginning of the civil war so catastrophic for our Country, we are still experiencing the drama of the division between North and South Korea, something which is against your Holy Will.

Lord, we ask you to forgive us and listen to the voices of your sinful servants praying for the end of the war on the Korean peninsula, so that our hearts and our countries may be once again united.

Lord, help us to fully acknowledge that only peace and harmony can safeguard the progress of a nation. Hostility is contrary to the very nature of the human being and Your holy will.

Lord, illumine the minds and hearts of the powerful of this world, so that they may assist in bringing an end to this conflict and considering the interests of the Korean Nation above all other geopolitical interests.
Lord, we beseech you, the Lord of Peace, grant us your wisdom and light so that we may all work together for peace, goodwill and harmony among us.

Lord, make us worthy of handing over to the next generations a united Korean Peninsula, so that we may all live without the fear and agony of war, but with love, peace and security.

Because, Lord, you are our help and our power, and to you we ascribe glory, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages, Amen.

Prayer for the separated families

Lord,

We have lived up to now with the sorrows of division and separated families because of the Korean War, which broke out due to the division of ideologies.

Loving God,

It has been 70 years since the division of the Korean Peninsula, and we, the churches of Korea, call out for your mercy on the divided families. We pray that we may walk the path of reunification, breaking the chains of division.

Gracious God,

We ask you to make one this divided country and unify the divided families from North and South Korea that yearn to be together. Make us reconcile with one another on the way to peaceful reconciliation!

Merciful God,

Hear our long-cherished desire of the entire Korean nation to put an end to the history of disgraceful division and now set us free from the chains of hatred. May we be united full of hope of New Heaven and Earth!

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ who makes two into one.

Amen!

Bishop Bo Hwan Youn Acting President, the Korean Methodist Church Council of Bishops Moderator, NCCK