Praying for the Peace of the Korean Peninsula
Let's Join the "DMZ People's Peace Chain Movement"

"I am going to bring it recovery and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security." (Jeremiah 33:6)

The words of liberation and peace that God proclaimed through the prophet Jeremiah toward Israel and Judah as they suffered under the oppression of Babylon, are the message given now to the Korean people marking the 100th anniversary of the March 1st Independence Movement in the midst of division and a Cold War. We may have been liberated from Japanese colonial rule, but we did not achieve our full autonomy and independence, now due to the failed trusteeship of the U.S. and the former Soviet Union, and the Korean War, the division has become entrenched, and we have lived a history of suffering. Today we are passing through the whirlwind of history, hoping for full liberation and achievement of the true peace that God has given us through Jeremiah.

Even though expectations for peace on the Korean Peninsula are rising to their highest point with the Panmunjom Declaration, the Pyongyang Declaration, and the NK-US Summit in Singapore in 2018, still the second NK-US Summit in Hanoi ended fruitlessly so the peace process on the Korean Peninsula has been delayed again. We cannot go back to the old days when conflict and antagonism dominated. This is because peace on the Korean Peninsula is an *irreversible national historical imperative and an historical task for the world.* We are all passing through this important historical moment.

At the hour of 14:27 on April 27th, the first anniversary of the Panmunjom Declaration, Christians and citizens wishing for peace will join hands on the DMZ peace trail from Kanghwa to Gaesung along the border with North Korea. We sincerely appeal to all of my companions. Please wholeheartedly participate in the "DMZ People's Peace Chain Movement." Please help us demonstrate our hope and will for peace to the Korean Peninsula, to Northeast Asia, and to the whole world. True peace will not come from any of the great powers surrounding the Korean Peninsula, but we believe that our salvation, God, will listen to our prayers and make a new history of peace through us.

As Apostle Paul encouraged us to, "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), let us pray and act for a complete peace on the Korean Peninsula. Let us awaken and pray that the fear of war, the pain and confrontation of the division of the two Koreas, and the wounds of the South-South conflict will no longer destroy our lives. Let us, the children of God, reach out with the hand of peace first. Let us reach out the hand of peace toward our neighbors, our kindred in the North, to people in Northeast Asia, and to the whole world.

Beloved saints! Now the words of liberation and peace promised through the prophet Jeremiah have confronted us. Let us open the way for peace on the Korean Peninsula with the hope of the true peace that God gives us. Let us wholeheartedly join in the "DMZ People's Peace Chain Movement," and let us universally declare our Christian commitment to overcoming division and ushering in a new era of reconciliation, peace, and prosperity.

April 9th, 2019

Rev. Lee Sung Hee, Moderator
Rev. Lee Hong Jung, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in Korea

Rev. Lim Hyung Seok, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Korea
President Bishop, Bishop Jun Myung Ku, The Korean Methodist Church
Rev. Kim Choong Sup, Moderator, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea
Territorial Commander Kim Phil Soo, The Salvation Army Korea Territory
Presiding Bishop, Bishop Yoo Nak Joon, The Anglican Church of Korea
Rev. Lee Yang Ho, Moderator, Korean Evangelical Church
Rev. Kim Seo Ho, Moderator, The Assemblies of God of Korea
Metropolitan Ambrosios of Korea, Ecumenical Patriarchate Orthodox Metropolis of Korea
Rev. Jin Young Seok, Moderator, Lutheran Church in Korea