

Asia Sunday 2016
KOREA:
TOWARDS UNITY IN THE BOND OF PEACE

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(Ephesians 4:3)



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Asia Sunday is observed every year on the Sunday before Pentecost, which coincides with the founding of the Christian Conference of Asia. Asia Sunday celebrations focus on particular themes and calls upon member churches and councils, as well as churches and ecumenical partners around the world, to organise special prayers worship services to observe the Asia Sunday. In 2016, Asia Sunday falls on 8th May, but as usual, churches and councils are free to choose a date to observe Asia Sunday at the local or national contexts, according to their convenience.

Introduction

Korea, divided in the aftermath of World War II, has since been one of the most abrasive and tense geographical regions in the world. Despite many positive developments in the world during the post-Cold War era, the people in the Korean peninsula still live in the shadows of threats to peace and security. The relationship between North and South Korea has been severely estranged over the past 63 long years since the combat ceased through the 1953 Armistice Agreement. The two Koreas have been technically in a state of war since then, with defensive military build-ups including the stockpiling of nuclear weapons. As a result, the North East Asia region still has the world's heaviest concentration of military personnel and is in a constant arms race.

Events of recent months have shown once again how sharp the conflict and the political standoff in which North and South Korea have been entangled in continuous tension. Realising that the present situation in the Korean peninsula warrants a renewed engagement to work for peace, reconciliation and reunification of the divided Korean peninsula, the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) decided to focus the theme of the 'Asia Sunday-2016' on Korea and urges churches around the world to pray for peace and reconciliation in the Korean peninsula. The call for peace in the Korean peninsula is pressing now more than ever before. Peacemaking in Korea could be a sign of hope, a symbol of healing and reconciliation. As we pray with and for the peoples of the Korean peninsula, churches and ecumenical partners have a specific responsibility towards intensifying our efforts collectively to build peace and reconciliation in the region.

The need to advance the effort towards peace and reunification of the two Koreas is pressing. More important is the need for mutual understanding, tolerance, acceptance and healing that will ultimately lead to reconciliation and peace with justice. With renewed commitment, the CCA affirms its support and solidarity with the churches and people in the Korean peninsula. The need of the hour is to work in close cooperation and partnership with churches and ecumenical partners in Asia as well as in other parts of the world to achieve the goal of peace, reconciliation and reunification of the divided Korea. The ecumenical movement as a whole has been called to be part of peace-building together with churches in both North and South of Korea, especially the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK) and the Korean Christian Federation (KCF).

The observance of Asia Sunday-2016 on the theme 'Korea: Towards Unity in the Bond of Peace' is yet another initiative of CCA to provide opportunity to prepare the churches and various actors in the ecumenical movement around the world to renew their commitment to peace, reconciliation and reunification of the Korean peninsula. As CCA urges its member churches and councils, as well as ecumenical partners to observe Asia Sunday this year on Korea, CCA reaffirms its long-standing commitment to build peace and move beyond conflict. We are reminded of St. Paul's words: Christ is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has broken down the wall of hostility, creating in himself one new people (Ephesians 2: 14). We are also called to "make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). We believe that through the bond of peace, unity can be achieved, and through unity, peace can be sustained in the Korean peninsula.

Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA

Asia Sunday-2016 Order of Worship

Call to worship

The Spirit gathers us to worship God and builds us up in faith, hope and love so that we may go into the world to proclaim the gospel and work for justice and peace. Let us worship God together.

L: Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life:

At the beginning of time you gave every living thing the breath of life.

C: Come, Creator Spirit, and renew the whole creation.

L: Holy Spirit, Spirit of unity, reconcile your people.

Give us the wisdom.

Give us the grace.

Give us a vision of your breadth and length and height to challenge our stubbornness and bring us humbly together.

C: Come, Holy Spirit, reconcile us.

L: Holy Spirit, Spirit of peace:

You break down barriers of language, race and culture, and heal the divisions that separate us.

C: Come, reconciling Spirit, and unite us all in the love of Christ.

L: Holy Spirit, transform us and sanctify us as we take up our cross in your name.

Give us the gifts we need to be your servants in spirit and truth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit. Come into us.

Hymn ...“Christ is Our Peace” (Sound the Bamboo 262)

(♩ = 108)

1. Christ is our peace, Christ is our health,
 2. Peace in your mouth, peace in the hands
 3. Who work for peace find the true wealth,

he the true Word, his the true wealth —
 o - pen to truth, to love's de - mands;
 who heal the hurt find their own health —

gifts to be shared by the sim - ple and poor:
 those who would go with Christ al - so must bleed —
 peace will flow on through the hearts that be - lieve:

peace in your land, peace at your door.
 bright is the flower, burst is the seed.
 this may we know, thus may we live.

Responsive Reading

Psalm 133

L: How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

C: It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes.

L: It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

All: How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

Psalm 133, para. Pablo Sosa Miren que bueno Pablo Sosa: Argentina

Refrain

¡Mi - ren qué bue - no, qué bue - no es! ¡Mi - ren qué bue - no, qué bue - no es!
Be - hold how plea - sant, how good it is! Be - hold how plea - sant, how good it is!

Confession

L: Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other (Psalm 85:10)

Lord, you are our peace, you speak to us of peace with justice.

But we have stood silent as mute witness to injustice
and abuse of the rights and dignity of people around us.

Forgive us our silence and our reluctance.

C: Have mercy on us.

L: Peace I leave with you. My Peace I give you. (John 14:27)

Lord, we lament that we, your children,
who have learnt from your life the values of truth, love, compassion and forgiveness,
have not been true ambassadors of reconciliation and peace.
We have not raised our voices against armed conflicts
that seek to avenge historic injustices and disputes;
nor have we protested against huge amounts spent on militarization and nuclearization,
or raised an alarm at the increase in the availability of small arms and light weapons
that add to senseless killing and violence.

Teach us, Lord, to be your peace in a broken world of hatred and selfish greed.

O God,

C: Have mercy on us.

L: Have unity of mind, sympathy, love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. (1 Peter 3:8)

Our hearts are burdened as peace and security in Asia continues
to be a major concern for several decades.

Peace talks and negotiations in many forms and stages are taking place,
but many of these peace processes are taking too long to consolidate and materialize.

We place in your care the Korean Peninsula.

We join with our brothers and sisters in Korea, and beseech you for mercy,
to help "purify ourselves, as we are filled with hate anger and violence,
grant us inner courage to reflect on our true past, face the hidden truth,
and reunite with those who suffered unrighteous death.

Give our weak selves the Holy Spirit,

let us not give up our pursuit for forgiveness,
reconciliation and unification.”

O God,

C: Have mercy on us.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Christ is our peace; those who are divided he has made one. He has broken down the barriers of separation by his death and has built us up into one body, with God. To all who repent and believe he has promised reconciliation. So live as people reconciled.

$\text{♩} = 60$

A - min, ha - le - lu - ya! A - min, ha - le - lu - ya! Ter - pu - ji na - ma - Mu. A - min, ha - le - lu - ya!
A - men, hal - le - lu - jah! A - men, hal - le - lu - jah! We praise your name, O God, A - men, hal - le - lu - jah!

Music: Sutarno, based on a Javanese melody.

Scripture Reading - 1

Ezekiel 37:15 -22

The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, ‘Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him’ Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, ‘Ephraim’s stick, belonging to Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him.’ Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand.” When your countrymen ask you, ‘Won’t you tell us what you mean by this?’ say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph – which is in Ephraim’s hand – and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah’s stick, making them a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.’ Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms.

Scripture Reading - 2

Ephesians 4:2 -4

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another I love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called.

Sermon ... “Unity in the Bond of Peace”

**“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”
(Ephesians 4:3)**

Offering

Intercessory Prayer

L: O God Eternal, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair, in whom is calmness and peace: reconcile the difference and barriers that divide us from one another and bring us back into the unity of love that may bear some likeness to your divine nature. Grant that we may be spiritually one, both within ourselves and with one another, through the grace, mercy and tenderness of your son, Jesus Christ.

C:  *Come now, O Prince of Peace, Make us one body, Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people*



1. O - so - sȯ o - so - sȯ, pyong-hwa - ui im - gum
 2. O - so - sȯ o - so - sȯ, sa - rang - ui im - gum
 1. Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y,
 2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y,
 3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior,
 4. Come Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y,

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha so - sȯ.
 u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha so - sȯ.
 come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
 come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
 come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile all na - tions.
 come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile all na - tions.

L: Lord Jesus, you are the way of peace. Come into the brokenness of Korea with your healing love.

Help them to be willing to bow before you in true repentance, and to bow to one another in real forgiveness. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, melt out hard hearts and consume the prejudice and hatred that separates them. Fill them with your perfect love, which casts all fear and bind them together in unity.

C:  *Come Hope of Unity, make us one body, Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations*

L: Living God, may the people of North and South Korea now overcome the wounds of the past, understand one another, and reach out in compassion to embrace each other in love. Let the North and the South be reconciled.

C:  *Come now, O God of love, make us one body, Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations*

L: O God, comfort those who have been longing to meet their families since their separation for more than seventy years. Hear their cries and relieve their sorrows. Grant that they may not give up their hope of reunion. May the day come when the divided families can freely cross the border between the North and the South.

C:  *Come now, O Prince of Peace, Make us one body, Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people*

L: God of peace, may North and South Korea be united in peace, as “swords are beaten into plowshare.” May another war never again reverberate in this land. May they stop the endless arms race and may peace reign in the Korean peninsula.

C: ♪ Come Hope of Unity, make us one body, Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations

L: God of love, our hearts break when we hear the children suffer hunger and malnutrition in North Korea. May there be consistent concern and assistance for them. May the children in the North and the South grow up healthy and strong to become leaders in the age of reunification.

C: ♪ Come now, O God of love, make us one body, Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations

L: God, shine the light of your grace on the Korean peninsula, and give us the salvation that makes all things new. In your power, break down the barrier at the 38th parallel. May the light of your gospel shine in all the towns of the Korean peninsula.

C: ♪ Come Hope of Unity, make us one body, Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations

L: Merciful God, bless Korea and enlighten with your grace and wisdom the national leaders of both Koreas, so that peace is established on the foundation of justice, righteousness and truth.

C: ♪ Come now, O Prince of Peace, Make us one body, Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people

All:

Oh God,

Thank you for letting us know, as we hear the trickling waters beneath the melting ice, that spring is not far away.

Thank you for showing us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that a new road lies beyond the one that ends.

Our people had shared joy, anger, sorrow, and pleasure, but for the last 70 years we have lived separated as North and South embracing our wounds and pains.

We have not ended division and conflict only to find out ourselves that such 70 years were not enough. How can it be that 70 years were not enough to end division and conflict? And in fact a higher wall is rising in front of us. Amidst the vicious cycle of division, distrust, dispute and arms race, our land and sea has become a military experimentation field of weapons, not knowing when war will break out. The bridge that once yearned for peace and unification has crumbled and the bird that once flew over that bridge, wet with rain, is no longer able to fly.

God,

Have we stimulated misunderstanding and enmity even while speaking of reconciliation?

Have we aggravated conflict and confrontation even while speaking of ending the division?

Have we incited misunderstanding and distrust even while speaking of faith?

Have we been blind to our own self-interest even while speaking of co-existence?

Have we chosen the road that threatens our life even while speaking of our people’s survival and security?

God of grace,

Please let us see ourselves rightly, we who have gone against the path of life and taken part in destruction instead of peace. Have mercy on us and forgive us when we repent our foolishness and change our paths with tears in our eyes. When we fail to realize our wrongs and continue to drive community to the cliff, please stop our steps and with your whip of love lash our obstinacy and ignorance.

God,

We yearn that compatriots of the North and South unlock the latch of separation and mightily soar on two wings.

For this hope to be fulfilled, the churches in the North and South will build a bridge of forgiveness and reconciliation where there is hate and division, let rivers of dialogue flow where there is distrust and confrontation, plant trees and create forests where there is violence and destruction.

God of resurrection,

let the churches of the North and South hunger and thirst for righteousness,

Lead us to cultivate such desires and will into courage and wisdom and become communions of faith that make peace.

In this cold and bleak season, let our people and our neighboring countries meet the tidings of spring and lights of life that break free from the icy ground.

In Jesus Christ's name we pray. Amen.

2016 Easter North-South Joint Prayer

National Council of Churches in Korea (NCKK), Korean Christian Federation (KCF)

♪ Come now, O Prince of Peace, Make us one body, Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people

Lord's Prayer (each in their own language)

Hymn... "We Who Bear the Human Name" (Sound the Bamboo 258)

(♩ = 92)



1. We who bear the hu - man name are like flow - ers of the field;
 2. E - ven So - lo - mon of old, said our Lord, the man of peace;
 3. We are peo - ple of the field crowd - ing A - sia's ci - ty streets;



with - out sta - tus, with - out fame, tram - pled down and made to yield,
 with his glo - ry and his gold could not match the flow - ers' grace.
 we are peo - ple called to build a com - mun - i - ty of peace.



un - pro - tect - ed and ex - posed to the scorch - ing wind that blows.
 We are weak, but we re - call how the might - y ones must fall.
 We re - mem - ber as we toil hope is spring - ing from the soil.



Let all the world now blos - som as a field!
 Let all the world now blos - som as a field!
 Let all the world now blos - som as a field!

Blessing

All: May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road. May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve. May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your heart to reconcile and love overcoming division. May the Christ who heals the wounded nation bring you together to unite. Amen.

The Peace

L: We need new life, new hope, and new vision to rebuild the community of reconciliation and peace, and to regain our unity in the bond of peace. The LORD says,
“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;
Not as the world gives do I give to you.”
The Peace of the Lord be always with You.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us share with one another a sign of reconciliation and peace.
(Everyone goes around exchanging the sign of peace according to one’s own custom.)

Background to Asia Sunday Theme

Division of Korea and the Quest for Reunification

The division of Korea into South Korea and North Korea was a result of the Allied Forces' victory in World War II. Imperial Japan's thirty-five years of colonial rule of Korea ended. The United States and the Soviet Union agreed to occupy the country with zones of control divided by the 38th parallel. However, negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union failed to lead to an independent, unified Korea. A UN-supervised election was held in the US-occupied south in 1948, which led to the establishment of the Republic of Korea (South). This was immediately followed by the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North). The United States supported the South, and the Soviet Union supported the North, and since then, each government has claimed sovereignty over the whole Korean peninsula.

The first proxy war of the Cold War fought between the Soviet Union and the United States was in the Korean peninsula (1950–53), and left the two Koreas separated by the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at the 38th parallel. The Korean War finally ended without a peace treaty or clear conclusion, but subsequently a Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. As stipulated by the terms of the Korean Armistice, a conference in Geneva, Switzerland was held in 1954, attended by the participants of the Korean War, in order to settle the Korean question. Despite the efforts of many of the nations involved, the conference ended without a solution to unify Korea. Since the war, Korea has remained divided along the DMZ. North and South have remained in a state of conflict, with the opposing regimes both claiming to be the legitimate government of the whole country. Sporadic negotiations have failed to produce lasting progress towards reunification.

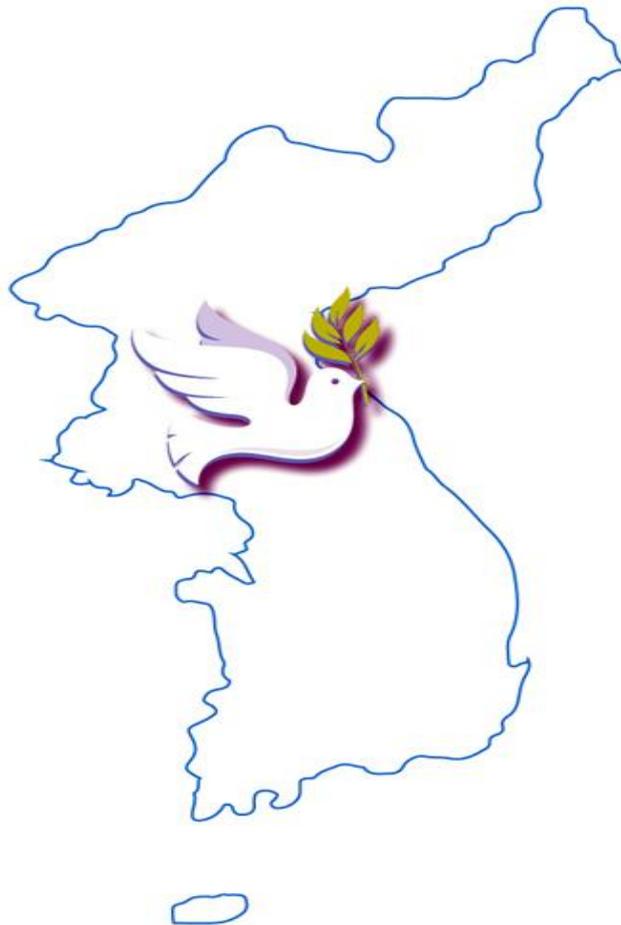
Millions of people were killed in the Korean War. The human suffering and its magnitude has seriously affected the people on both sides. Over ten million people have been separated from mother or father, brother or sister, son or daughter, wife or husband. The ongoing hostility has created an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust that pervades Korean society. This has been justified in the name of security and external threat by leaders on both sides. The Korean War signaled a new movement in the Cold War, and in the post-Cold War era.

The strategic reality and geopolitical map of Northeast Asia is influenced by balance of power and trends of power shift. Despite many positive changes in the world during the post-Cold War era, the North East Asia region still faces the world's heaviest concentration of military and security threats. Four of the world's nuclear weapons states are directly involved in this region. Three major powers constituting possible 'power poles', China, Japan, and Russia, are active in this geographical area. The influence and presence of the United States in this region is also quite substantial, despite geographical distance. These factors indicate that the politics of peace and reconciliation are still very much attached to the international power struggle and strategic interests of external countries. Peace, security and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula continue to be a major concern as the international climate has yet to establish a congenial atmosphere for Korean reunification.

The relationship between both North and South Korea has been tense ever since the division took place. In January 2016, North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear weapons test, claiming to have detonated its first hydrogen bomb. Continuing to defy international sanctions, in February 2016 Pyongyang fired a long-range rocket to launch a satellite into orbit, which was widely viewed as continued testing of intercontinental ballistic missile technologies and further increased tensions. These actions have elicited serious concerns, with new U.S. sanctions passed in February 2016 following additional punitive measures taken by Japan and South Korea. The present situation in the Korean peninsula prompts us to intensify our efforts for a renewed engagement to work for peace

and the reunification of a divided Korea. The recent launching of rockets and hydrogen bomb testing has put the relationship between the two Koreas to the test once again. South Korea and the U.S are now planning to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system on South Korean soil, despite strong objections from China and Russia. South Korea has closed down Gaeseong Industrial Zone arbitrarily, a joint factory between the South and North, signaling a cut of one of the last vestiges of cooperation. The South Korean government is trying to introduce an anti-terrorism bill in spite of strong objections by opposition parties. The U.N. Security Council on 2 March 2016 approved the toughest sanctions on North Korea in two decades, reflecting growing anger at Pyongyang's defiance on the ban on all nuclear-related activity. Animosity between the two countries has been on the rise in recent weeks.

The ecumenical movement has articulated its vision of peace as a condition of justice embracing the whole of life and the restoration of harmony among neighbours. Churches all over the world have expressed their concern during the past several decades over the ongoing situation in the Korean peninsula. The Christian Conference of Asia and its member churches also urged for a new process towards a comprehensive peace treaty that will replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement and secure just and peaceful relations between the two Koreas, while facilitating Korean reunification. It is in this context that CCA has decided to observe Asia Sunday-2016 with a focus on 'Korea: Towards Unity in the Bond of Peace'.



Worship Resources

Sound the Bamboo – CCA Hymnal 2000

Puji Tuhan Worship Book-14th General Assembly – Christian Conference of Asia

The Worship Source Book – Second Edition

The Book of a Thousand Prayers

“70 Days of Prayer for Healing, Reconciliation, and Peaceful Reunification”, The Presbyterian Church of Korea

Internet Resource – Google