

2021 Joint South-North (North-South) Easter Prayer

- South Draft

God of life! Christians of South and North (North and South) Korea as one mind give you thanks from the bottom of our hearts for overcoming the suffering of the cross and the power of death, and for helping us overcome today's suffering with a new hope through the resurrection of Jesus.

God of healing! The global community has been experiencing chaos and disorder due to the spread of the disease known as COVID-19 since the beginning of 2020, to an extent which no one had ever imagined. South Korea and North Korea (North and South), as well as the whole world, are living through severe anguish and a time of trial. We pray earnestly for the safety of the lives of our Korean family spanning South and the North Korea (North and South), as well as all the people living in the world, and that you will heal the natural world completely.

God of history! This year, 2021, marks the 76th anniversary of the joy of liberation from Japanese colonization at the same time as the division of the two Koreas into South and North (North and South), and 30 years since the two Koreas South and North (North and South) joined the United Nations as separate countries. However, we are still practicing for war and pointing guns at each other's hearts. We hope that, by the power of reconciliation of the resurrected Jesus, we can now firmly end the history of such a painful division and overcome the separation of our national history through peaceful coexistence and reunification, so that the great revival of our Korean nation's history will unfold on the Korean Peninsula.

God of love and peace! We remember that beautiful time of history when through high-level talks 30 years ago South and North Korea (North and South) agreed on "reconciliation," "mutual non-aggression," and "exchanges and cooperation" in the 1991 basic agreement when we were filled with hope for the future of the Korean people. We pray that you will revive once again the foundational spirit of the South-North (North-South) basic agreement which is slipping from our memory. Please help South and North (North and South) to become a respected unified nation that ends this wasteful history of conflict and confrontation, where we can enjoy peace coming and going freely sharing exchanges, and let us create an inspirational history of love and peace.

God of hope! May the lonely rusty train, halted in the Demilitarized Zone after the armistice of the fratricidal Korean War nearly 68 years ago, now be filled with the future of love and hope, with glory and prosperity so that it can run vigorously again connecting South and North (North and South). We earnestly ask, by the power of the God who can resurrect South and North Korea (North and South) that you let us quickly settle our history of the grief of division, truly reconcile, and share our familial love to create a new history of reunification filled with joy.

In this spring of 2021 when all things come back to life, as we celebrate Easter, filled with the desire that the people of God in South and North Korea (North and South) will put an end to the war and realize a new future with a peace agreement, we pray earnestly in the name of Jesus who lives again.

4. April. 2021

The National Council of Churches in Korea