

Japan-Korea Anglican Joint Declaration – 15th August 2025

- *‘Blessed are the peacemakers’ (Matthew 5:9) -*
- *‘They shall beat their swords into plowshares’ (Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:3) -*

Dear beloved in the Lord,

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Japan’s defeat and Korea’s liberation in World War II. On this significant occasion, we once again engrave in our hearts the mission of reconciliation and peace given to humanity by God.

Repenting of History

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Anglican Church in Japan) deeply repents of the sin of colonial rule it exercised over the Korean Peninsula in the past.

We do not forget the wounds and pain inflicted by our ancestors upon the people of the Korean Peninsula, nor the resulting division between North and South Korea. In the Lord’s forgiveness, we seek true reconciliation.

As Scripture says,

‘Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you’ (Ephesians 4:32); both of our Anglican churches will build a new relationship through forgiveness and love.

Reflecting on the Present

The world today is suffering due to war and conflict – ‘genocide in Gaza,’ the ‘never-ending war in Ukraine,’ and various other conflicts are occurring around the globe, and it is in such times Christians must recall our mission as peacemakers.

After World War II, Japan, by the grace of God, enacted a Peace Constitution, renouncing war and committing to pursuing peace without military force. This was a precious gift that realized God’s will of ‘beating swords into plowshares.’

We bear the responsibility to protect and further develop this spirit of peace.

Though the Korean Peninsula still bears the pain of division, God has given us a vision of reconciliation and unity.

We believe it is the Lord’s will for peace to be realized in this divided land.

For over 40 years, the Anglican Churches of Japan and Korea have deepened “sincere fellowship,” learning to understand and love each other.

Especially through long-standing youth exchanges, we see the blessing of young people becoming one in Christ – a great gift of grace from God.

Also, many clergy from the Anglican Church of Korea are collaborating in mission by serving in the Nippon Sei Ko Kai; a beautiful fruit of our fellowship.

Our Promise for the Future

In accordance with Scripture,

'God... reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.' (2 Corinthians 5:18); we pledge to act as follows:

- **Practice of Love:** We will pray for one another, strive to understand each other, and serve each other with the love of God.
- **Pursuit of Truth:** Without averting our eyes from historical truth, we will respond with love over hatred, and forgiveness over condemnation.
- **Witness of Peace:** We will support the spirit of Japan's Peace Constitution and engage in peacebuilding through dialogue and cooperation rather than military confrontation.
- **Prayer for Unification:** We earnestly pray that the divided Korean Peninsula may be reconciled and unified by God's grace, and we will work to be companions of peace in this journey.
- **Sharing of Hope:** We will continue sincere fellowship and exchanges so that the younger generation and women may experience the joy of unity in Christ.

Responding to the Lord's Call

Looking forward to the day when "swords are beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks," we will take part in the work of building bridges of love across walls of hatred.

With the painful history of 80 years ago in mind, we now become true family in the love of Christ.

We pray that our friendship and trust will become a modest cornerstone for peace and unification of our two nations, the Korean Peninsula, and reconciliation in East Asia.

'How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity!' (Psalm 133:1)

Grateful for the ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us by the Lord, we will walk forward, bearing witness to the Gospel of love and peace.

15th August 2025

The Most Reverend Onesimus Dongshin Park, Primate of the Anglican Church of Korea

The Most Reverend David Eisho Uehara, Primate of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Houses of Bishops, ACK, NSKK