

Immanuel United Church  
The Second Sunday of Lent  
March 13th, 2022

Welcome

Call to Worship:

Sometimes we have to step away from our daily life  
to examine its breadth and depth,  
to understand the distance covered and direction taken.  
Jesus said Christ came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.  
Jesus shared how to plan and measure our journey  
and calculate the dimensions of abundance.  
As we begin this Lenten season, let us examine, consider,  
and ponder in worship Jesus' way as a map and a path for living fully.

Opening Prayer (VU 11)

**God of love,  
as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,  
so may we give ourselves to you,  
living according to your holy will.  
Keep our feet firmly in the way  
where Christ leads us;  
help our lips speak the truth  
that Christ teaches us;  
fill our bodies with the life  
that is Christ within us.  
In God's holy name we pray. Amen.**

VU 111 *As the Sun with Longer Journey*

**As the sun with longer journey melts the winter's snow and ice,  
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,  
may the sun of Christ's uprising gently bring our hearts to life.  
Through the days of waiting, watching in the desert of our sin,  
searching on the far horizon for a sign of cloud or wind,  
we await the healing waters of our Saviour's victory.  
Praise be given to the Maker of the seasons' yearly round:  
to the Speaker through the Spoken in their living Breath of love  
as the ever turning seasons roll to their eternal rest.**

## Introduction to the Scripture:

In this season of Lent, we are journeying through the Deserts of Divisions. Our theme and our hope is for God and all God's children to "Make a Way, Rivers in the Desert." The prophet Isaiah hears God's voice and cries out, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19)

In today's Gospel reading, some of the sympathizers from the Pharisee's circle in Jerusalem came to Jesus and say, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

Jesus responds, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.'"

I am very fond of many kinds of foxes in my imagination and in stories. We know that foxes exist from warm climates all the way up to the Arctic. I am thrilled whenever I see or encounter a fox or fox family at a camping site or in the woods, as it is rare to meet them in the wild. They are clever, and for this reason, sometimes people talk of them as if they are sly, deceptive or play tricks on humans.

It is certain that 'the fox' Jesus refers to is not like the nature-born foxes. The fox in Jesus' reference is a predator in the human world. Herod deceives and misguides innocent people and even kills them.

Scripture: Luke 13:31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.

Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!  
How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood  
under her wings, and you were not willing!

See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes  
when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Choir Anthem: *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*

**Video: Korea Peace Appeal - <https://youtu.be/xBJNlcIInsI>**

Voices from the United Church of Canada: United Church Canada ministers and  
former and current mission co-workers introduce the Korea Peace Appeal 10,000  
signature appeal and invite us all to participate.

**Please read: <https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/divided-war-0>**

Rev. Dr. Kyongja (Kay) Cho, minister of United Church of Canada, Ontario,  
shares the story of two Korean brothers forced into the military on different sides  
during the Korean War.

Reflection: War is Over (If You Want It)

“Go and Tell that Fox” (Luke 13:32)

This morning, I would like to share with you what I have learned this week about the  
tragedy of the Korean War (1950 - 1953) — why it happened and how it went; the  
discoveries and lessons we’ve learned — and why we must end the Korean War and  
call for “Peace Now!” on the Korean Peninsula.

We live in a world in which all are interconnected. Peace in Korea matters, not only to  
the Korean people. Your peace, our peace, ultimately, depends on peace in any small  
part of the world that suffers from division, war, violence against the vulnerable by the  
powerful. I hope that today’s reflection on Ending the Korean War can help us all gain  
insight to understand why all wars, ultimately, are not justifiable, and that we, as  
children of God, must nurture our hunger for justice and peace. As we witness the  
extremely traumatic attacks and human suffering in Ukraine, we hear God’s call for us  
to be a channel of peace, to be the river-makers of peace in the hostile deserts of  
division. To do so, we need to equip ourselves not only with compassion or aid, but a  
historical and critical lens to not repeat the mistakes of the past. We need to act with  
understanding.

The Korean war seems like an old, forgettable war these days. However, as the first conflict of the Cold War, it needs to be understood as the starting point, or template, of all the other wars in the era. *It changed the world.* It was more than just a local tragedy or the poker table of more powerful countries, with one 1,100 kilometre-long peninsula at stake. Thanks to the Korean war, the United States became the number one dominant nation in the world. West Germany and Japan made a dramatic economic comeback and revival thanks to the Korean War.

To set the stage: The relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union which fought together as allies during World War 2 became tense and the conflict and grievances reached the peak in 1947, which triggered the deadly arms race. President Truman announced that the US would help any country fighting a communist takeover, and the US would use military force to contain communist expansionism anywhere it seemed to be occurring. In particular, American officials encouraged the development of atomic weapons like the ones that had ended World War 2; In 1949, the Soviets tested an atom bomb of their own. In response, Truman announced that the United States would build an even more destructive atomic weapon; Stalin followed suit.

So, how did the Korean War start, and why? When I was an elementary school student, all students had to enter a competition by painting posters of why we (North Korea and South Korea) must be reunited. Every classroom sang the song of, "Our Wish is Reunification" every year, but none of my friends, including myself, really understood why the war occurred, other than the simple knowledge that North Korea invaded the South on a quiet Sunday morning. However, as we grew up we just naturally began to understand the character of the war. It's a proxy war by powerful foreign nations. They were sly and uncaring foxes who wanted global control in the Cold War era. They tested their power to do so in this very useful and small geographical location — far enough and safe enough from their own nations: China and Russia above, and The United States across the Pacific Ocean. Classified documents, which have been released in the past two decades, show that Il Sung Kim, the founder of North Korea, discussed armed provocation with Joseph Stalin in Moscow in March, 1949. Mao Zedong in China joined in. In January, 1950, Stalin made the decision. This war killed and injured 4.5 million people in 3 years in this small corner of the world.

And how did the Korean War end? It didn't. A peace treaty was never signed.

The Korean War, as the first testing ground of the Cold War, was also part of the Atomic Age. The German scholar N explains, writing in the book, *The Korean War* (2000), that

during the war, General Douglas MacArthur (US) repeatedly called for the use of atomic bombs in 1951. Even Harry S. Truman, the United States president, considered using atomic weapons at one point. In November, 1950, not long after the American air force bombed the bridge over the Apnok River, Truman threatened the Soviet Union, saying that the US could drop a nuclear weapon on Beijing. Mao, after a victory led by China's Human-wave Attack in 1951, requested that Soviet Union give the nuclear weapon blueprint to them and Stalin refused. Their relationship split.

In Eastern Europe, ruled by the Soviet Union, the campaign to support North Korea started right after the Korean War. East Germany responded likewise. That made West Germany nervous; they pushed to rebuild their army and manufacture military materials. The result: Before the Korean War, the economy of West Germany was in shambles, with more than two million unemployed. By 1952, their overseas trade had doubled. N, the German expert on the Cold War and the Korean War explains that "After years with the war, the West German economy ran smoothly like a rotary machine."

Of course, the Korean War can never be explained fully as just a proxy war, moves on a chessboard. War makes the most vulnerable suffer and bleed. Korean people call the Korean War "The Tragedy of Brothers Killing Each Other." Rev. Cho (<https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/divided-war-0>) shares her story that her two teenage brothers were taken away by South Korean soldiers and North Korean soldiers respectively, and had to fight, aiming their guns at their enemy which was, in reality, their brother. Human suffering must be considered as the most powerful reason to end war. We must always remember the theological reflection on the hunger towards justice and peace. We need to be "wise as serpents", not only "innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16) when we are sent out into the midst of wolves, among the foxes.

During the war, thirteen activists from the Women's International Democratic Federation, which was founded in 1945 in Paris, to work for women's rights, anti-fascism, world peace and child welfare, visited North Korea to research the conditions of women, children and the vulnerable under the brutality of the American and South Korean armies. It was the one of the most influential international women's organizations of the post-1945 era. It reported about indiscriminate, daily air bombing by the American air force on North Korea, the destruction of houses, mass murder, burning, the starvation of innocent people. They wanted to find the truth of who died by whom and why on the war-torn land. The report was published, world-wide, entitled "We Accuse". The organization lost their status in the UN as a consequence of their research and conclusions. (They were not given permission to cross the border and

research in South Korea during the war. The women's organization was not allowed to cross "The border of the Cold War.")

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus says to his sympathizers, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.'" On this second Sunday of Lent, I invite Immanuel United Church to reflect on what the demons are in our time, the healing and cures of today and tomorrow, and what the third day would be like where, with all the children of God, the Christ-body, will resurrect in peace, justice, reparation and reconciliation.

Hereby, I, with many people in Korea and in the world, especially with "Womens' Cross DMZ" ([www.womenscrossDMZ.com](http://www.womenscrossDMZ.com); an international coalition of women's peace groups advocating for a formal end to the Korean War with a peace agreement), call for "Korea Peace Now!". We call world leaders, you, and us, to make meaningful progress toward lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. Specifically, we urge the newly elected president of South Korea (as of last Wednesday) to take a peace-first approach with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ("North Korea") by, together with the United States, officially ending the Korean War with a peace agreement. This action must come at the beginning, not the end, of negotiations. A state of peace will benefit millions of people living on the Korean Peninsula and in the Northeast Asia region. Regional cooperation amid rising tensions between the United States and China is also crucial to ensuring a peaceful outcome to the security crisis on the Korean Peninsula. Increasing sanctions, military exercises, and pressure will only exacerbate tensions, prolong the arms race, and raise the risk of renewed hot conflict in the region. Such a disastrous outcome must be prevented at all costs. No military-first approach is productive to building peace on the Korean Peninsula. The way to build peace and achieve goals such as denuclearization is by addressing the root cause of tensions, which is the unresolved Korean War.

Peace First! End the Korean War Now!

### **The Korea Appeal: End the War Now!**

#### **Join the Ten Thousand Signature Campaign**

The Korean War began in 1950. While open clashes ceased in 1953 with the signing of an armistice, a peace treaty has not yet been established and the war is not over. For more than 70 years the Korean people have endured a constant state of hostility and war, which has solidified the division of the peninsula.

The Korea Appeal: End the War Now! is a global campaign that seeks to collect 100 million signatures by 2023, the 70th anniversary of the armistice. The

National Council of Churches in Korea has challenged The United Church of Canada to add Ten Thousand Signatures by the summer of 2022.

Join with Korean partners and all who seek peace on the Korean Peninsula, the region, and the world. In adding your signature to the petition, you are saying:

- End the Korean War and establish a peace agreement.
- Create a Korean Peninsula and a world free from nuclear weapons and nuclear threat.
- Resolve the conflict with dialogue and cooperation instead of sanctions and pressure.
- Break from the vicious cycle of the arms race and invest in human security and environmental sustainability.

Hymn: VU 684 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Offering

Prayer:

**Loving God, may these gifts be a catalyst for truth  
about how we are blessed  
and how we are broken  
and how we are given to your world for hope and healing. Amen.**

Hymn: VU 34 *Come Now, O God of Peace*

Prayers of the People:

God of wonder,

Comfort those who have been suffering from the division by foreign powers for over 70 years.

We ask you to restore the broken Korean Peninsula.

—from by Dr. Un Sunn Lee, Committee of Reconciliation and Reunification (NCKK), Korea Association of Women Theologians

The people of Korea want to hear the good news of the end of the 70 year-long war and the lifting of the sanctions and restrictions against North Korea for humanitarian assistance. The sanctions hurt only the most vulnerable people.

God of all creation,

You have made all things good,  
yet we have hurt Mother Earth.

Many people are dying of COVID 19.  
We hear the lament and see the tears everywhere.

May this time be an opportunity for us to learn  
that the weapons produced by world's military powers are useless  
in the threat of COVID 19 pandemic.

Forgive our greed and evil doings.  
We live in a time of war and great suffering throughout the world,  
all because of our selfishness and arrogance.

Help us to turn away from the wrongdoing,  
Change our way of life to the path of life you lead.

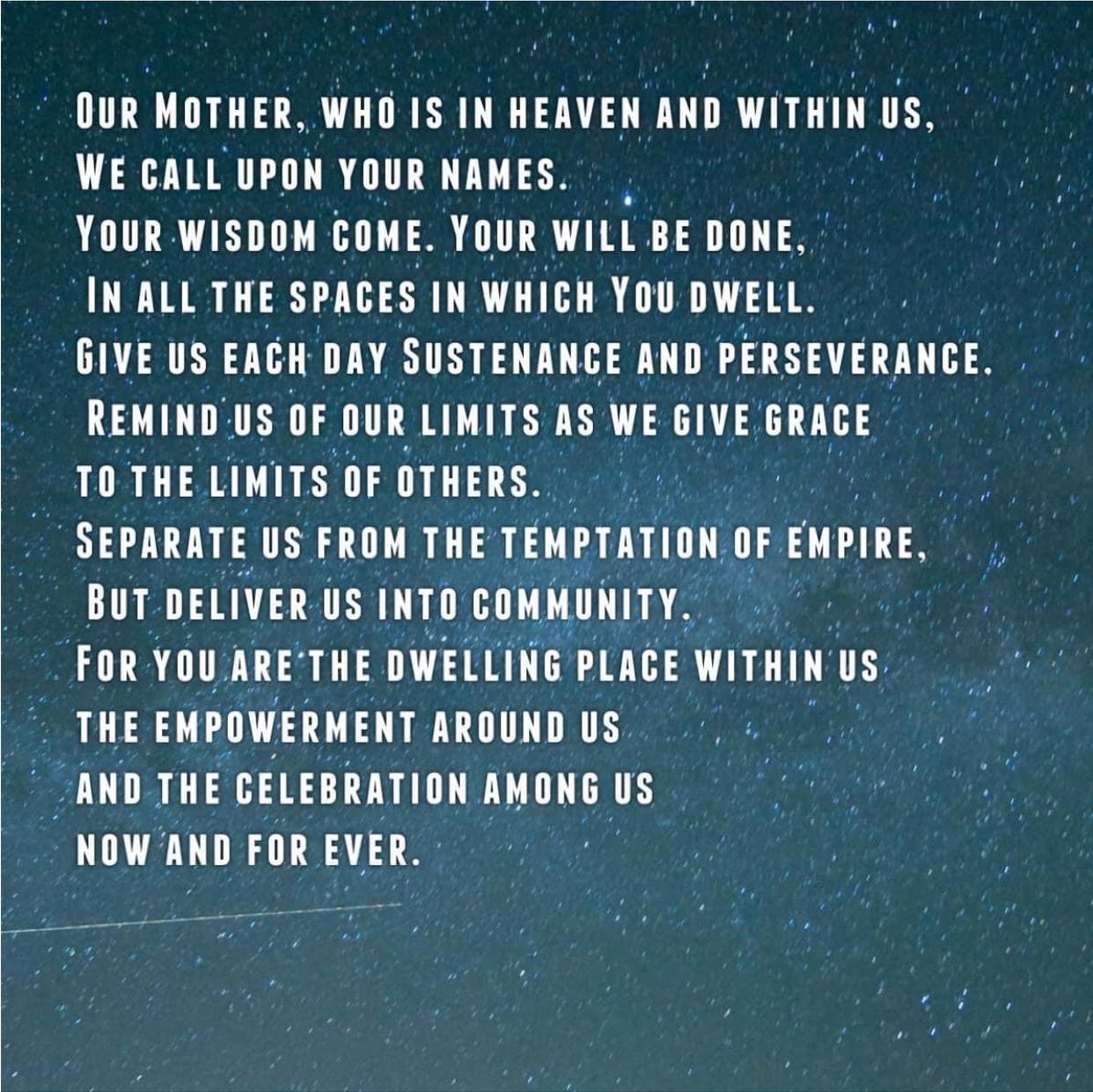
God of wonder,  
Comfort those who have been suffering from the division by the foreign powers over 70  
years.  
We ask you to restore the broken Korean Peninsula.  
Help us to use the wisdom that we have learned from the conflict and division for the  
peace of the whole world.  
Help us to realize that all human beings are one and equal before you, O Lord!  
Help us to recognize the fact that the weak and the strong are sisters and brothers in the  
House of Earth.

May this time be an opportunity for all of us to be united to overcome the pandemic.  
May the Korean Peninsula be a sign of hope.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ with your children all over the world.  
Amen!

Jesus' Prayer:

**Our Mother, who is in heaven and within us, we call upon your names.  
Your wisdom come. Your will be done, in all the spaces in which you dwell.  
Give us each day sustenance and perseverance.  
Remind us of our limits as we give grace to the limits of others.  
Separate us from the temptation of empire, but deliver us into community.  
For you are the dwelling place within us, the empowerment around us,  
and the celebration among us, now and forever.**



**OUR MOTHER, WHO IS IN HEAVEN AND WITHIN US,  
WE CALL UPON YOUR NAMES.  
YOUR WISDOM COME. YOUR WILL BE DONE,  
IN ALL THE SPACES IN WHICH YOU DWELL.  
GIVE US EACH DAY SUSTENANCE AND PERSEVERANCE.  
REMAND US OF OUR LIMITS AS WE GIVE GRACE  
TO THE LIMITS OF OTHERS.  
SEPARATE US FROM THE TEMPTATION OF EMPIRE,  
BUT DELIVER US INTO COMMUNITY.  
FOR YOU ARE THE DWELLING PLACE WITHIN US  
THE EMPOWERMENT AROUND US  
AND THE CELEBRATION AMONG US  
NOW AND FOR EVER.**

Hymn: MV 143 *We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*

Commissioning and Benediction: "The Heart of Mother" performed by Paul Metcalfe