

Praying for Peace

April Monthly Service 2022

Good morning, everyone! Happy New Day, New Week & special “Thanks” for joining today’s service. This is our monthly service for April 2022.

On February 24, *Russia* launched a large-scale *invasion* of *Ukraine*. Ukraine is strong in their cause to “defend their country.” Many Ukrainians are giving their lives for their country. That is why Ukraine has been able to hold out against “Russia who is without a cause,” even though having a huge difference in military equipment.

However, as the war worsens, the misery increases. Russia has been indiscriminately destroying more major Ukrainian cities, bombing and killing civilians. Even hospitals & schools have been bombed, and civilian shelters as well. Even worse there recently have been found mass brutal slayings of Ukrainian civilians by invading Russian forces, related to the existence and dignity of humankind. How horrifying! So many are grieving. It is said that Putin might use chemical & biological weapons, or could use nuclear weapons as a last resort. If so, countless numbers of people will be killed and countless places would be ruined.

Even now there are many casualties in both countries. It is a tragedy for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia. I cannot help but pray that peace will soon come. May peace come to Ukraine promptly!

No matter what kind of war it is, there is no greater sorrow for ***Kami*** than war between *Kami*’s beloved children, ***His*** human beings have to kill each other. In addition, this time a country with much power unilaterally attacked another with less power. This is unforgivable. So, through the *Mediation* of *Ikigami Konko Daijin*, I have desperately been praying for this invasion to be stopped immediately, for the well-being of the Ukrainian & Russian people, and that both Ukrainians & Russians would get along well, worshiping with each other.

At the same time, I have sincerely sought to understand the *Divine Wishes* *Kami* has for this war. What are *Kami*’s *Wishes* for all of us human beings to go through such a tragedy?

Kami gave the following revelation to our founder on Nov. 24, 1880:

Right now, the world is human-centered. All things are done by people’s own power, and many people are going against my teachings. Those who do as I say shall become a kami. Long ago, it was a Kami-centered world. Because of this, I shall teach people to return to a Kami-centered world. Difficulty and suffering are caused by people’s own hearts. Whether or not they can live in a peaceful world also depends on their own hearts.

Human history, whereby all things have been done by people’s own power and the powerful have dominated the powerless, has never changed for thousands of years. That is the main way wars have been started throughout human history. The tools humans use for war have evolved to an extraordinary degree. The human heart, however, has not evolved one iota; nor do many even realize that it has not.

Kami said that there was a Kami-centered world long ago and wishes for us humans to return to it. Kami wishes to end this cycle of human history, to stop the senseless wars and establish an era of Wagakokoro (peaceful joyful heart), whereby Divinity & humanity can meet together in prayer, rejoice together in gratitude & delight together in mutual satisfaction. Long ago existed a Kami-centered world. Why can't we establish an advanced Kami-centered world? The Wagakokoro era. The Wagakokoro era is not just a dream. We can achieve it with our strong determination.

For that, we first have come to realize that Wagakokoro is the essential foundation for human happiness. And that for each human it is life's desire to seek after the peaceful heart of WA (harmony) & the joyful heart of GA (celebration).

Today's society is more and more a world of darkness. There has never been a better time than now when true light is really needed. There are so many gods and deities saturating society, but one cannot find true light to brighten the world. There truly cannot be any light unless religion, as written in Japanese, is a religion which teaches that which the cosmos indicates, or that which *The Divine Parent of the Universe* is indicating.

Wagakokoro is that light. Wagakokoro is achieved by respecting with gratitude each and every happening in our daily life as Kami's doing. Each happening is the very indication of the cosmos.

The Konko Faith is the way of the peaceful and joyful heart. It seeks to establish an era of peaceful joyful hearts of all people around the world. Our Founder said to one of his disciples, "On this very day pray with a single heart. Divine blessings are within your own peaceful joyful heart." If people lose their belief in this teaching, Konko Daijin taught: "The world will be in turmoil and the glory of Kami will be gone." In other words, the glory of Kami will appear and true world peace will be attained when at every moment people believe in the truth of that statement, "On this very day pray with a single heart. Divine blessings are within your own peaceful and joyful heart."

Kami's arrangements and workings definitely need to be the foundation in order to establish peace and justice throughout the world. The world is presently the reflection of the collective hearts of self-centered human beings. The more we choose to turn our hearts to developing peace and joy, the more the hearts of the entire human family will be deeply turned toward peace and joy for the whole world, and the more our world will be blessed. Then, finally, through Kami's great plan, I believe true world peace and human happiness will be manifested.

Therefore, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine I not only have sincerely prayed to *Tenchi Kane No Kami* that peace will come to Ukraine as soon as possible, but also have done my best to deepen peace & joy in my heart more intensely to the extent that Kami's glory will appear in this world

The more I pray for the people of Ukraine who had to leave their homeland with nothing but the clothes on their backs, the more I desperately wish to develop peace & joy in my heart to the extent that it resonates throughout Heaven & Earth. For this, I request solemnly to devote myself to a life of faith development as far as the limitations of my physical and spiritual abilities.

Thank you!