***Joe Biden’s first presidential speech***

Few periods in our nation’s history have been more challenging or difficult than the one we’re in now.  A once-in-a-century virus silently stalks the country.

challenging： やりがいのある stalk：こっそり近づく

It’s taken as many lives in one year as America lost in all of World War Two. Millions of jobs have been lost. Hundreds of thousands of businesses closed.

hundreds of thousands of：数十万の

A cry for racial justice some 400 years in the making moves us. The dream of justice for all will be deferred no longer. A cry for survival comes from the planet itself. A cry that can’t be any more desperate or any more clear.

racial：人種の　justice：公平　defer：従う desperate：絶望的な

And now, a rise in political extremism, white supremacy, domestic terrorism that we must confront and we will defeat.

political：政治の　extremism：極端論 white：白人

supremacy：優位　domestic：国内の　confront：直面する

To overcome these challenges – to restore the soul and to secure the future of America – requires more than words. It requires that most elusive of things in a democracy: Unity.

challenges：困難　restore：回復する　secure：確保する　elusive：定義しにくい

In another January in Washington, on New Year’s Day 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. When he put pen to paper, the president said, "If my name ever goes down into history it will be for this act and my whole soul is in it." My whole soul is in it.

emancipation：奴隷解放　proclamation：宣言　act：行為

Today, on this January day, my whole soul is in this: Bringing America together. Uniting our people. And uniting our nation. I ask every American to join me in this cause.

　 unite：団結させる　cause：主張

I know speaking of unity can sound to some like a foolish fantasy. I know the forces that divide us are deep and they are real. But I also know they are not new.

fantasy：空想　divide：分ける

Our history has been a constant struggle between the American ideal that we are all created equal and the harsh, ugly reality that racism, nativism, fear, and demonization have long torn us apart. The battle is perennial. Victory is never assured.

constant：絶え間ない　struggle：奮闘　harsh：厳しい　ugly：醜い　nativism：排外主義

　demonization：悪魔化　tear apart：分裂させる　perennial：繰り返し起こる

Through the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War, 9/11, through struggle, sacrifice, and setbacks, our "better angels" have always prevailed.

sacrifice：犠牲　setback：挫折　prevail：広く行き渡っている

In each of these moments, enough of us came together to carry all of us forward. And, we can do that now. History, faith, and reason show the way, the way of unity.

faith：信念

We can see each other not as adversaries but as neighbors. We can treat each other with dignity and respect. We can join forces, stop the shouting, and lower the temperature.

adversary：敵　dignity：尊厳

For without unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury. No progress, only exhausting outrage. No nation, only a state of chaos.

fury：憤慨　outrage：暴力 exhaust：疲弊 chaos：混沌

This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward. And, we must meet this moment as the United States of America.

crisis：危機　path：進路