

Bloom: Pentecost with True Mother in Munich May 19, 2024

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Christians in Europe have been observing Pentecost for almost 2000 years, but future historians may well decide that May 19 2024 as the most important celebration of all. On the foundation of 13 previous Pentecost festivals celebrated by the FFWPU True Mother, God's beloved and only begotten daughter came to Munich to share with us the coming of the Holy Spirit and the gospel of True Parents. She spoke with great conviction to an overflow crowd of more than 2,500 in person at the famous Munich Showpalast and to more than 18,000 watching online from throughout Europe and the world.

The two-day Bloom festival was designed by our young organizers to be a happy celebration of worship, praise and prayer and a family festival suitable for all ages. The Showpalast grounds were transformed with many activities for children, including a magician, bouncy castle, pony rides and the truly unique "giant horse" that kept our energetic youngsters busy for hours. For the older youth, there was a Divine Principle competition, a UPF gathering, and lots and lots of food, refreshments, exhibitions and stands, and an opportunity to connect with old and new friends from over 50 nations.

On the first evening, we held a magnificent devotional prayer and praise session, featuring the powerful (and newly created) worship band "Near Revival" with musicians and vocalists from the UK, Italy and Germany. They performed various Hillsong and gospel standards, along with many other contemporary gospel songs and some upbeat arrangements of our own Holy Songs. Cheonbo branch president In Pyo Moon brought us the spirit of the Cheonshimwon Vigil prayer and by the end, there were few dry eyes in the house.

Soon after the prayer the heavens opened and there was a powerful thunderstorm and torrential rain, but Sunday dawned bright and sunny. The doors opened early and a full house assembled to hear True Mother deliver her Pentecost message. As she entered the hall to Handel's "Entry of the Queen of Sheba" played by our talented 2nd Generation chamber orchestra, she was greeted by more than 90 small children who were on their very best behavior despite being so excited to see her for the first time.

"When we look at the current state of the world, there seems to be no beacon of hope shining for peace today or in the future," True Mother said, "but we must remember that God, our Creator and Heavenly Parent, is eternal, the first and the last. Therefore, we can be sure that God will never abandon humanity. His goal and dream at the time of creation will absolutely be fulfilled in these last days."

Lead organizer of the event, EUME Vice President Bogdan Pammer, said the event was an outstanding success.

"The fact that we had a team of over 150 young volunteers taking complete ownership of this event was already a success," he said, "and True Mother provided the perfect inspiration for everyone. What the world needs now more than ever is God's motherly, embracing love. She gave us a glimpse of how the world will be once we reconnect to our origin, the Heavenly Parent." Bogdan's 7-year-old son had a vivid dream after singing for True Mother at the festival, saying "I dreamed I was invited to Wang Omma's birthday party and I took her an owl made out of Lego, and she really liked it!"

Matthew and Natasha Huish, Vice President for the North Subregion, brought all eight of their children to the festival, making the 1200 km drive from London into a family pilgrimage. "It was the first time for most of our children to see True Mother in person and they were excited and deeply moved," he said. "True Mother looked beautiful and serene, but we could see there was a pillar of fire and strength shining out of her eyes. We were filled with new hope."

The Pentecost festival marked the end of a busy week in Munich. True Mother, who is always looking for new ideas to beautify the HJ Cheonwon grounds, visited the Munich Botanical Gardens and Marienplatz among other famous sights. She had several meetings with European leaders, together with our International President Yeon Cheon Song. She had a lot to say about the need to bring truly substantial results as our offering to Heavenly Parent at the time of the Cheonwongung dedication next year. "You have to get serious about national restoration," she said. "Have faith that God has prepared the righteous people who can make that a reality and do not hesitate or hold back from sharing the truth about Jesus, True Parents and our Heavenly Parent!"