

## Chicago Family Church celebrates Special Grace Holy Wine Ceremony

David Rendel  
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On a beautiful Sunday morning, 300 members of the Chicago Family Church Community celebrated the Special Grace Holy Wine Ceremony and made a commitment to rebirth in their lives of faith.

The program was an extension of the Sunday Worship Service. It began with a greeting to True Parents and congregational reciting of the Family Pledge. Rev. Jeff Schmidt, District 7 Pastor, offered the Invocation and Rev. David Rendel, Chicago Senior Pastor delivered an inspiring message entitled, "God's Blessing Through Special Grace".



It was wonderful to see so many families participating from throughout Illinois, some traveling many hours to attend. Unificationists of different ages, ethnicities and backgrounds were all connected through a common love for Heavenly Parent and True Parents and a commitment to building the Heavenly Kingdom.



“It was a beautiful ceremony,” commented one participant. “I felt God’s love and forgiveness so deeply and True Mother’s desire that we all fulfill our portion of responsibility.”



The program ran smoothly as families joined together in offering their Cheon Il Guk Resolution Forms and sharing the new Holy Wine. The team of first and second-generation Unificationist volunteers managing the many facets of the program did a fantastic job. It felt like a large family affair as everyone supported each other in completing each step.



Rev. Rendel’s message explained the historical significance of True Parents’ Special Grace and described eight key blessings contained within True Mother’s benediction prayer. A highlight of the program was watching a video of that prayer and taking time to offer our own prayer of repentance and re-determination.



One sister's expression of gratitude represented the sentiment of most participants. "I realized that behind this amazing grace given to us is True Parents' tremendous devotion to God. Their love is absolute and eternal, for all of humankind. We are so blessed to have been able to meet True Parents on the earth and manifest God's lineage through us."



The program ended with a festive time of fellowship and refreshments. Everyone felt renewed and hopeful for the future – and excited to be receiving the Cheon Il Guk Holy Items later this month.