

Traditions of the 51st True Heavenly Parent's Day

Richard Buessing
February 16, 2018



Today, February 16, 2018, is the 51st True Heavenly Parent's Day. Here is a compilation of traditions that are historically significant to celebrating Heavenly Parent's Day, including the offering table and midnight calligraphy.

When True Parents first established [God's Day](#) on January 1, 1968, they did so with the beautiful motivation of liberating and comforting the heart of God, our Heavenly Parent, who still is longing for the return of all His and Her children. True Father said, "People have celebrated birthdays, anniversaries and national holidays, but never have men and women in full attendance of God celebrated God's Day. How sorrowful this is that for so long there was no day to celebrate God, but only humanity celebrating themselves."

From 1968 to 2010, Unificationists celebrated True God's Day on January 1, the first day of the new year based on the solar calendar. In 2011, however, Unificationists began celebrating this holiest of days on the first day of the year according to the lunar calendar, or the Korean Cheon-gi ("heavenly calendar"), which in January 2010 True Parents began observing as the Unification Church's sacred calendar. In 2013, True Mother announced that True God's Day from then on would be known as True Heavenly Parent's Day.

This year, True Heavenly Parent's Day is February 16 by the solar calendar.

The Significance of the Heavenly Calendar

The Korean Cheon-gi was declared by True Parents in 2010 at the beginning of the lunar calendar. For Unificationists, the conversion to the heavenly calendar is one that has less to do with how we measure dates and more with the spiritual significance of entering a new age. The first year of Cheon Il Guk was declared by True Parents in 2013. The world has entered a new age spiritually; we reside in a time of great blessing, when new things are possible. The heavenly calendar is not just a different way to measure dates; it is a way to signify the movement of our Heavenly Parent's providence.

The lunar calendar brings a deeper meaning symbolically. Marking the passage of time by milestones of the moon's "life" in the sky preserves the various meanings that the moon holds spiritually. The different phases of the moon -- from new to full, and back to new again -- signify a cleansing and rebirth. We can further appreciate the more feminine aspect of this heavenly body, in contrast to the masculine sun. Because the woman's womb aligns with the moon's cycle, a lunar view seems to truly represent rebirth and the feminine aspect of our Heavenly Parent.

Though it may feel finite to us in this moment, the way in which we as humans mark the passage of time actually has evolved and changed over the centuries. Different cultures and religions have developed and followed their own calendars. The Mayans, Chinese, Muslims and Hindus are examples of cultures and faiths that observe the lunar calendar. Judaism, too, has a lunar-based calendar, the first day of which is believed to be the day on which Adam and Eve were created. Even Christians, who in Western cultures use the solar calendar, celebrate Easter each year based on the lunar cycle.



2020 Yearly Motto

Our True Mother, during the 2014 Heavenly Parent's Day celebrations, created a [new motto](#) to carry the world through to the year 2020: *"Let Us Become True Owners of Cheon Il Guk Who Practice True Love in Resemblance to Our Creator, the Heavenly Parent!"*

During the celebrations she said: "We need to become the people who produce big results, reflecting each day on the 2020 motto. We need to become people who can bear the responsibility of Heaven's blessings. We received the great Marriage Blessing from our True Parents that our Heavenly Parent originally desired to give us. We need to pass the Marriage Blessing on to our descendants of all generations and become ancestors they can be proud of and of whom they can say: 'My ancestor was really special for doing magnificent work with True Parents. True Parents knew my ancestor.' Most importantly, we should all become prestigious families, doing our best so that in the spirit world we can report our results to True Father."

This morning, Unificationist families and friends from all over the world gathered together as a community, bowed our heads in prayer and offered up this new year to Heavenly Parent.