

Fountain of Hope



Chung-dong First Methodist Church, English Ministry—December 2017



Be Joyful – the Lord is Coming!

As the commercial world is already saturated with red and green, it's easy to lose sight of the true colors of the season—the Advent season. Every Sunday during Advent a different candle is lit. One of the candles is pink, a color that represents joy. It turns out, the Church has a good reason for putting one pink candle in the Advent wreath.

To discover the story of the pink candle, we first have to look at the origins of the season and the wreath. Until Advent was instituted toward the end of the [fifth century](#), the only season Christians observed was Lent. As preparation for Christmas, the Church established Advent in the spirit of Lent—as a season of reflection and penance.

A wreath of hope

The custom of the Advent wreath originated with pre-Christian Germanic people whose evergreen wreaths and fires signified hope in the darkness of December. Christians maintained the tradition and by the 16th century German Catholics and Protestants used the wreath to symbolize hope for Christ's coming. The practice spread through the Christian world.



By one [interpretation](#), the wreath's four candles represent the first Advent before Christ's birth, with each week commemorating 1,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Nativity. Purple candles stand for prayer, penance, and sacrifices and good works done during the Advent season, as we also wait for the Lord's second coming.

Another view is that the candles in the wreath have specific names which we can reflect on as we light them and pray: the first is hope, the second peace, the third joy and the fourth love.

The color for joy

A pink candle that signifies joy makes sense since it is lit on Gaudete Sunday—named for the entrance antiphon for that Sunday's Mass: "Rejoice (gaudete) in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice." The joy is subdued, however, as the penitential violet of the other weeks lessens to rose as we move closer to Christmas.

As Advent is patterned in part after Lent, Gaudete Sunday is similar to the Lenten Laetare Sunday, which also represents joy and falls at the midpoint of Lent. And that finally leads to the explanation for the pink candle. In the ancient Church on Laetare Sunday in Lent, the Pope gave a citizen a [pink rose](#). The tradition has continued, as popes bestowed golden roses on Catholic rulers and now more commonly, on places of devotion.

Following the papal rose custom, bishops and priests began wearing rose-colored vestments on Laetare Sunday. The Church then brought the Lenten practice of rose vestments to Advent on Gaudete Sunday. As a result, the pink candle gained a place in the Advent wreath.

Although the culture tells us it's already Christmas, the Church reminds us through the pink candle of Advent that there is an appointed time for everything (Eccl. 3:1). The time now is for rejoicing—because the Lord is coming soon!



December Highlights



Christmas Eve Service

24 December 2017

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve Service on **24 December at 7pm** at Yewon School – Main Auditorium. Please invite your friends and family to this time of worship and celebration.



Family Retreat

*Friday and Saturday
29/30 December*

EM's Winter Retreat will take place at Glory Condo Dogo in Asan, a resort which offers indoor hot spring baths and pools all-year round. We will enjoy a time of relaxation, spiritual encouragement and fellowship, ending the year on a high note. The cost is 70,000

Won per person, accommodation included. We will depart by bus early on Friday, 29 December and return early evening on 30 December. If you're interested, please contact one of our staff members after worship on Sundays to reserve your place. Hope to see you there.



*Our passion is God.
Our motivation the love of Jesus Christ.
Our power is through the Holy Spirit. Our mission is the world.*

News Bits

**A blessed Christmas to all
Chungdong members and friends!**



Events at Chungdong

Baptism for Christmas

The next baptism service will take place on December 24th during the Christmas Eve Service. Candidates for baptism can contact the church office or one of the staff members for details. More details will also be provided soon.

Voices of Hope 4

After three successful publications of Voices of Hope, Chungdong EM is working on the 4th edition which will be published in 2018. Voices of Hope is a collection of testimonies and essays from members and friends of Chungdong EM, celebrating the work of God in and through this ministry. The deadline for submissions is December 30th. If you wish to write a poem, prayer or essay, please contact Hye-Eun Chon.

Contemporary Service

Our 10:30 Contemporary Services take place in the Music Room on the 5th floor of Yewon School. Rev. Reiners is preaching a sermon series on Living out of the Box. Holy Communion is served on the last Sunday of each month. All is welcome.

Preaching Schedule

Dec 3: Rev. John Choi
Dec 10: Rev. Sehyoung Lee
Dec 17: Past. Hye-Eun Chon
Dec 24: Rev. Johan Reiners
Christmas-eve
Dec 24: Rev. Sehyoung Lee
Dec 31: Rev. Sandra Kim

Winter VBS

The English Ministry will once again present a Winter Vacation Bible School for elementary school students. It will take place in January on the following days:
6 Jan 13 Jan 20 Jan
Details will be provided during December

Special Lecture

14 January at 3pm – Music Room, Yewon School
Don't miss this open lecture on Christians and the Economics by well-known economist and speaker Dr. Kwang-Woo Jeon

14 January

Baptismal Renewal Service.

Fall Highlights

Thanksgiving Service and Banquet

In true Chungdong tradition, EM celebrated Thanksgiving with a worship service marked by the spoken word in preaching and the singing word in music by Shalom Trio and Choir, followed by a scrumptious potluck with traditional turkey and lots more to eat.

Reformation Sunday

What a feast it was with Dr. Chris Bounds who preached during our Reformation Sunday celebrations!

Kid's Worship

EM's Kid's Worship is an ongoing ministry to kids, both Korean and non-Korean in English. They worship on Sundays at 1:30 and provide interesting programs to the kids.

Young Adults Retreat

A group of young adults braved the November cold to embrace the warmth of fellowship and spiritual renewal on the 25/26th of November. See photo.

Helen Shepherd Visit

Former EM staff member, Helen Shepherd visited EM recently.

Congratulations!

Sang-Eun Lee (the former cellist of Shalom Trio) won the grand prize at the 24th KBS & KEPCO Music Competition on Wednesday, Oct 25, 2017.



English Ministry
Contemporary Worship
Sundays at 10:30

Vibrant Traditional
Worship
Sundays at 1:30

Young Adult's Fellowship
– Sundays at 11:30

Youth Fellowship
Sundays at 1:00

Kid's Worship
Sundays at 1:30

Lay Leader:
Elder Kyung Eun Kim
Pastors
Rev. Se Hyoung Lee
Rev. Hea Sun Kim
Rev. Chong-ah S. Kim
Rev. Johan Reiners

Intern Pastor
Hye-Eun Chon
Pastoral Assistant
Hakki Min

Staff Assistants
Hangyoon Cho
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