




RADIANCE

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November/December 2020

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SACRED WORDS

People imagine that this world is burning. Assuming the Age of existence is expiring. But, to my eyes, it is as peaceful as ever, Teeming always with celestial beings. Lo! This world of mine has gardens and palaces, Adorned with all kinds of gems and jewels, And trees abounding with blossoms and fruits. It is to all, indeed, the land of bliss.

Lotus Sutra Ch. 16—The Duration of the Life of the Tathagata (Shingyo Hikkei translation)

COVID-19 Update

With continued restrictions in place, Kannon Temple will remain closed due to continued safety of followers and social distancing rules. Services will still be broadcasted online on **zoom**. For those interested in participating, please contact the temple at: kannontemplenv@gmail.com to obtain meeting ID and password.

We have also created an electronic payment option in addition to check/cash. Please create a **venmo.com** account and send donation to: [@kannontemplenv](https://www.venmo.com/@kannontemplenv). Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Komatsubara Persecution Service Nov. 8th, **10:30 a.m. (Sun)**

The Third of Four Major Persecutions in St. Nichiren's life. Before sunset of November 11, 1264, St. Nichiren was ambushed in the forests of *Komatsubara*, in current Chiba Prefecture. He was on his way to a devout follower's residence after secretly visiting his sick mother. He was wounded in the ensuing attack, while two followers were killed.

Please join us online to commemorate this important event.

Bodhi Day Service & Buddhist Statues **Appreciation** Dec. 13th, **10:30 a.m. (Sun)**

We will celebrate Sakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment Day online. Traditionally a *bodhi-tree* is placed near the altar, representing the time Buddha became enlightened under that tree.

We will also show our appreciation to your Buddhist statues (*Daikoku, Kishibojin, Kannon, Nichiren Shonin, Buddhas*) or any statue(s) that you place in your altar is welcome. Detailed instructions will be given later.

We usually hold our **Year End Potluck Luncheon** after service, Unfortunately we have to cancel it this year. Please pray that we can meet again soon!

New Year's Eve Ceremony Dec. 31st, **10:30 a.m. (Thu)**

Come join us for the last service for 2020! This service is to show our gratitude to the Buddha, Dharma, Sangha, *Gohonzon*, deities, ancestors and all those around us throughout this interesting year.

In lieu of attendees, I will hit the *hansho* bell a total of 108 times, symbolizing our 108 attachments and illusions. All negativity will hopefully be gone with the sound of the bell to welcome in 2021 with A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Nichiren Shu News

In the past, many of you have been receiving hard copies of *Nichiren Shu News* paper along with this newsletter. Due to the current pandemic, physical copies cannot be delivered in time as the Japanese Post Office has suspended mail service to various destinations.

In lieu of the physical copy, please direct your attention to: <http://nichiren-shu.org/news/> to download or view the PDF version. Physical copies may resume once the pandemic subsides.

If you have any questions, please contact the temple.

Shichi-Go-San (7-5-3) Blessing **Cancelled**

This is a special celebration for girls ages 3 or 7, or boys ages 3 or 5 in Japan. Unfortunately due to current conditions, we will cancel this year's special blessing. Hopefully we can bring the tradition back next year. Please wait until then.

Temple Cleaning **Late Dec.**

In late December, it is tradition to help thoroughly clean the temple. This deep clean is to help rid the temple and you of any grime and negative energy accumulated over the year. This is in preparation for the coming new year so we can start fresh.

Unfortunately this year I will clean the temple alone. Instead, everyone please thoroughly clean your altar/butsudan and your home to welcome in the new year.

What An Interesting Year Shoda Douglas Kanai

Well, 2020 is almost over. This year was supposed to be a good year of the rat, but it did not turn out that way. Many hardships have befallen on everyone.

I hope that everyone took the time to reflect on their daily actions and made changes. Previously, I mentioned that the earth was sick and had a fever, thus letting us know that we too need to take a step back and mend our bodies and mind. When we have a fever, we need to rest, take in fluids, and let the body mend itself. The earth too is trying to mend itself. Periodically, we humans have to be reminded of how our actions affect others.

As more people slow down (rest), get in tune with nature (take in fluids), and realize compassion towards everyone (body mending), then the earth and us →

⇐will recover and the pandemic will soon subside.

Be reassured that we as followers of the Lotus Sutra know that nothing is permanent. All perceived ill things will pass. We must be patient and make sure that we are preparing the body and mind for recovery.

As for non-believers, they may feel that the world is ending, that there is no hope. Their perception is from a narrow point of view, rather than from a more open, all-a-round view. I hope that you do not fall into this category. If you do find yourself in despair, do not worry, there is always a way towards salvation.

Refer to the “Sacred Words.” I remember reading this translation when I was younger and used a different dharma book. I always found this passage descriptive and saw the celestial beings moving about in a wonderfully adorned castle above my head. It reminded me that this Saha-world (earth) is actually peaceful and is the Buddha-land. We do not have to travel to the Pure Land in the West to find peace. We have it here.

Sakyamuni Buddha let us know that this is his world. He watches over His world, so He watches over all of us. Since all Buddha-lands are pure, this world is pure as well. We just cannot see it. Due to our defilements, we have cloudy glasses, making it seem like the world is horrible. If we remove the grime, we can see the world as it truly is, peaceful.

Remember this phrase, always. Even when times seem tough, when you recall these words, you will be reassured by the Buddha that He is with you. We are his children; we are living in his house. By following His Teachings, we too can begin to see the world just as He does.

Have faith in the Lotus Sutra and Odaimoku. This will surely lead you to further strengthen your bond with Buddha. Do not keep this just for yourself. Please share this word with others, so that they too can remove the grime and see this world is truly the land of bliss.

New Building Fund commemorating the 800th Anniversary of Nichiren Shonin’s Birth

664 shakyo tracing Chapter 25 of the Lotus Sutra offered, **23,840,000** times of Chanting *Odaimoku* offered, As of October 25, 2020
Thank you very much! Please continue your support.

My View Point (As I heard and as I see)
Aloha Awakea! (Good Afternoon!)

Kumiko Kanai

I moved to Hawaii last September without saying goodbye to everyone at Kannon Temple due to the corona turmoil. Thank you very much for your kindness so far.

Hawaii is several islands created from an underwater volcano in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

A rain shower that casts a big rainbow in the sky wets the earth moderately. As the sun warms the trees again, new life sprouts in the forest which seems to create good conditions for plants.

Hawaiians believe that their special volcanic land and powerful nature has *mana* (spiritual power). They worship the gods of nature, and put souls into leaves, stones, trees, and all natural objects. Every morning, I open the window of my bedroom to gain this powerful energy from the trees in the mountains, just like being at the Karuizawa Resort (a famous mountain resort in Nagano Prefecture) in Japan.

Three crystal balls each tied with a red string hang from the windowsill swayed by the wind and reflect the sun’s rays, producing many small rainbows, creating a really beautiful sight!

I am sure this rainbow will grant hope in this new land. I would like to do my best to help missionary work in my new home of Hawaii.

If you are visiting Hawaii, please come visit the Hawaii Bestuin. We look forward to seeing you!

A Hui Hou! (See you again!)

Mahalo! (Thank you!)



EVENTS

(Services will be conducted online until it is safe for everyone to meet again)

<u>November</u>		<u>December</u>	
1 st (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Monthly <i>Kito</i> Blessing	6 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Kito</i> Blessing
8 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Komatsubara</i> Persecution Service	13 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	Bodhi Day/Statue Appreciation
15 th (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	English Service	20 th & 27 th (Sun)	No Service
22 nd (Sun) 10:30 a.m.	<i>Shodai-gyo</i> (Chanting Meditation)	31 st (Thu) 10:30 a.m.	New Years Eve Service & Tolling Of Bells
29 th (Sun) No Service	5th Sunday		

*** Join in every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. for **Tea Time with a Priest** to have your questions answered. Email temple for zoom ID and password ***

*** Those interested in Study Class and/or Counseling, please contact the temple to make arrangements ***