

京都の中心で、仏の名を呼ぶ

"BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG PITY" Kyoto

- Radiating Amida's eternal mercy and compassion from the bright lights of Kyoto -

Sat., Sep. 29 at 1PM – Sun., Sep. 30 at 1PM

Site: Shōjōke- in temple -east of Kyoto Imperial Palace

Fee: variable (see below)



Dear Friends,

Japan has a population of more than 100,000,000. However almost 30,000 people commit suicide per year out of despair.

We have turned to excessive consumption to try and tame our deep despair, and we have become used to trying to satisfy our desires anytime and anywhere. This is the way to GREED.

We must say goodbye to our inner GREED. Have we learned what is brought by the sum total of our GREED ? So what should we do?

Turn on! – turn on the pure light in our souls. Seek to shine beyond our greed. Buddha's teaching shows us the way to the everlasting light of the Pure Land.

Amida Buddha is the symbol of pure light that envelopes the universe, touching the lives of innumerable beings. This pure light is everlasting and man cannot manipulate it.

Mr. Barack Obama, the President of the United States, mentioned that Amida Buddha is a "symbol of peace and tranquility."

We are observing a 24-hour ceaseless Nembutsu chanting service at Shōjōke-in Temple from Saturday at 1:00 p.m. to Sunday at 1:00 p.m. We are extending our invitation to you to take part in this rare opportunity together with us.

Nembutsu chanting is the way to concentrate one's mind on Amida Buddha and his limitless light and compassion while reciting Amida-Buddha's name ("Namu-Amida-Butsu" – the "Nembutsu").

The Nembutsu is one of the most well known mantras in Japanese Buddhism.

The "Nembutsu" mantra means "I think highly of unlimited light, the gleam of hope and life, think of reverence for life." This is our credo.



Once again, on the first weekend of May, we are going to hold a special service chanting this mantra, Namu Amida-Butsu, devotedly for a throughout a day and night.

Let us seek the pure light of Amida together.

Let us concentrate our soul upon the immeasurable lives in the cosmos, under the sacred name of Amitabha and Amitayus (Amida's names in ancient Sanskrit). Let us find the pure light inside our soul so we can shed our greed and share Amida Buddha's limitless compassion with our fellow human beings.

We would very much appreciate it if you could come to Shōjōke-in Temple to take part in this service. Please inform us of your availability and the time you would like to check in and check out in advance, via e-mail to nenbutsu24@hotmail.co.jp.

We would also appreciate your participation in chanting Namu Amida-Butsu anytime during our service wherever you may be, even through the Internet. We will be broadcasting this service on our homepage (see below).

If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to contact us. We are looking forward to chanting Nembutsu together with you, yes, YOU! Let us unite with the Nembutsu!

"NAMU-AMIDA-BUTSU" can be divided into three words; the first NAMU is a Sanskrit word (an ancient Indian language), meaning "To think highly of." The second part AMIDA is a combination of the Sanskrit words of Amitabha (infinite light) and Amitayus (infinite life). "Amita," which are common to these two words, means "unlimited." Amitabha, meaning unlimited light, also indicates beam or a gleam of hope. On the other hand, Amitayus, meaning unlimited life implies to reverence for life. The last part, Butsu is a phonetic equivalent of Buddha, meaning "the Awakened One."

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<http://www.ne.jp/asahi/sakura/fuji/>

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"I looked up at that centuries-old **symbol of peace and tranquility** -- the great bronze **Amida Buddha**."

- remarks by President Barack Obama at Suntory Hall, Tokyo, November 14, 2009
(mentioning his impression of the Great Buddha statue at Kamakura)

【Japanese Buddhism Practices】

We don't impose any rules. You don't need to sit 正座 (*Seiza*: sitting upright with legs folded under). The participants are simply required to keep steady praying - thinking highly of the gleam of hope and life. We will prepare a lounge so you can take a rest if you feel tired. During breaks you can also:

Try 写経 (*Shakyō*: hand-copying of sutras),

Try 摺仏 (*Suri-botoke*: wood-cut printing image of Buddha),

Don't worry, friend. You may also go to a room dedicated for sleeping.

We have planned other activities - even having a cup of tea – anything to help steer you towards peace and tranquility. But it is your choice to make this service just an experience or further to a personal discipline. We will issue a "certificate of accomplishment" for participants that attend for six hours or more, depending on demand.

【Lantern Sponsors Invited!】

We will set up 燈籠 (*Tōrō*: Japanese-style floor lanterns) in the evening time during "Bright Lights, Big Pity" Kyoto at Shōjōke-in. The lanterns lighten our step and mind in an ebony temple yard under the bright lights of Harvest Moon. It seems surreal.

We would like to ask you to be a lantern sponsor. You can share one side of a lantern which you may write/draw your hope or wishes... or your own idea by donating 3,000 yen (S) / 10,000 yen (L). Applying can be done at a registration desk at Zōjō-ji. You may also substitute donations to any NPO, etc. of your choice, if you are out of Japan.

You may use the prepared sheet downloadable from our web site; of course your original painting would be welcome.

We will read your name and wishes at the closing prayer with all attendees. We hope to gather as many good wishes as possible.

The prepared sheet is accessible at the web site below. Please send your sheet as an e-mail attachment file to nenbutsu24@hotmail.co.jp.



【Schedule】

12:15	Open, Registration	6:30	Morning Service at Dai-den (Main Hall) (-7:30)
12:30	General Orientation	<optional>	an ordinary service of Shōjōke-in temple, with
12:45	Opening Service		Nembutsu and Sutra (Buddhist scripture) chanting.
13:00	Ceaseless Nembutsu Start	7:30	Light Meal (-8:30)
18:00	Light Meal (-19:00)	13:00	Final Service
0:00	Light Meal (-1:00)	14:00	End

礼拝 Raihai(Buddhist mass) and 行道 Gyōdō(Walking around Buddha imagine with nembutsu chanting) would be held irregularly.

【Fee】

- Attendance for up to two hours: "One-coin".
- Attendance for more than two hours up to six hours: 3,000 yen. (Includes one meal and usage of a blanket)
- Attendance for more than six hours: 5,000 yen. (Includes two meals and usage of a blanket)
- Attendance for any hours via internet: Free.

However, we would appreciate it if you let us know your time of participation in the service before or after the event to nenbutsu24@hotmail.co.jp



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