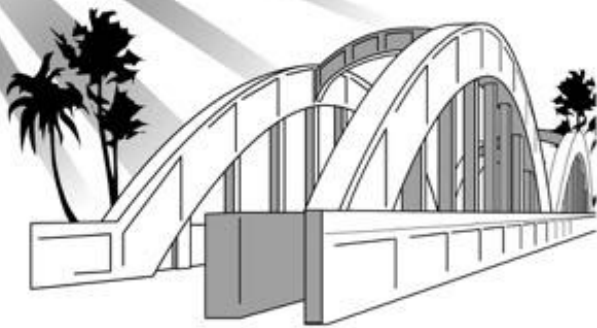


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Haleiwa Jodo Mission

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HALEIWA JODO MISSION



HALEIWA JODO MISSION



DECEMBER, 2024

BODHI DAY SERVICE

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

10:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

GENERAL CLEAN-UP

9:00 AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES

11:45 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024

SERMON AT THE JUYA SERVICE

Rev. Koji Jeff Ezaki

Resident Minister of Haleiwa Jodo Mission

Juya Service is a special occasion service to recite Amida Buddha's name many times and this is practiced only in Jodo Shu. First, I would like to thank the people who participated in the double celebration of the 130th Anniversary of Hawaii Jodo Shu and 850th Anniversary of the founding of Jodo Shu on October 20. The service and ceremony were held at the Jodo Mission of Hawaii, welcoming about 20 Jodo Shu ministers from Japan. About 100 people from Hawaii participated in the Affirmation Service and Commemoration Ceremony. During the entertainment portion, I played the guitar and sang Hawaiian songs on stage. It was a very memorable gathering.

For today's service, we will strike the *mokugyo*, a Buddhist wooden instrument, and recite Amida Buddha's Sacred name, "Namu Amida Butsu," repeatedly out loud together many times. Especially, at Juya Services, we recite "Namu Amida Butsu" for a longer time compared to a regular service. I am sure

there is a *mokugyo* for everyone. I will explain how to use the *mokugyo* later. First, we will observe sutra chanting. At this time, we will not use the *mokugyo*, so you may put it aside. Please turn to your Otsutome Book on page 12 and chant the sutra with me.

(Sutra chanting)

Thank you for chanting the sutras with me. Next, we will strike the *mokugyo*, the wooden instrument, and recite "Namu Amida Butsu" together. In Jodo Shu, recitation, or reciting "Namu Amida Butsu" many times, is one of the meditation practices. When we hear the word meditation, we imagine sitting in a quiet room in the lotus position, focusing on our breath, and concentrating deep in our minds. This is so called Zen meditation. We may also think of yoga, performing various yoga poses on the beach or park, feeling our body, mind, and nature unite together. When we hear the word "meditation," we think of it as creating a quiet situation to escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and purifying the mind. However, Jodo Shu is different. We strike the *mokugyo* and recite Buddha's name out loud. It is a

method of meditation that uses sounds to liven up the mind, rather than being in a quiet, calming meditation states. It's a rather lively meditation method.

Reciting "Namu Amida Butsu" many times is similar to repeating *mantra*. Mantra is a word or phrase that is often repeated and expresses a particular strong belief. Repeating *mantra* is a motivating chant, like the "I think I can, I think I can" you repeat over and over to yourself on the last stretch of a marathon you run. By reciting one word again and again, we can enhance our concentration. For example, there are famous mantras: Aum, Shanti, Sohum, Ahum. If you have practiced yoga, you might have heard these words. "Aum" means the beginning to the end, "Shanti" means peace and happiness, "Sohum" means connecting with everything, and "Ahum" means I or me. Mantra meditation involves chanting these words over and over again in silence to bring peace to the mind.

However, recitation practice, reciting "Namu Amida Butsu" is different from repeating *mantra*. "Namu Amida Butsu" means "I adore" or "I take refuge in Amida Buddha." By calling His name we ask Him for guidance to reach spiritual happiness. Buddhism says we have delusions in our mind such as desire, greed, anger, laziness, and so on. It says we, humans, have 108 delusions and they prevent us from happiness and enlightenment. It doesn't mean we have exactly 108 delusions. 108 stands for "many." Zen meditation, sitting in a lotus position in a quiet room to meditate is for removing these many delusions that come to our mind one after the other. The purpose of Zen meditation is to empty our mind in the tranquility. However, it is impossible to empty our mind and remove our 108 delusions by our own power because delusions always disrupt us to prevent our enlightenment. St. Honen, our Jodo Shu founder, realized this while he practiced different mediation methods. He insisted that we must ask ask for Amida Buddha's guidance to reach enlightenment. Call out his name a lot and turn our minds to Amida. To do that, Amida who is in the Buddha Land, will listen to our voice and spontaneous recitation, and lead us to enlightenment.

If you are about to drown in the ocean, what do you do? I am sure you will scream "Help! I need your help! Help me!" You will definitely shout and ask for help loudly. I have said we live in the sea of suffering. They are desire, greed, anger, hatred, laziness, stereotype, abuse, sadness, hostility... what else do we have? Disgust, jealousy, arrogance, and so on. Even as we live in suffering, we yearn to reach spiritual happiness. That is why we need recitation practice to ask for Amida Buddha's power. We are about to drown in the sea of suffering. Our life in the ocean is filled with different delusions and struggles of agony. To get out from the sea of suffering, we must call out Amida's name and ask His help. Instead of reaching

enlightenment by our own power, we ask Amida to take us to the spiritual goal. That is the reason we, Jodo Shu followers, recite Amida's name a lot to receive his mercy.

Now, I will explain how to recite it. We have two different types of *mokugyo* here. Some have the handheld-type mokugyo and some have the *mokugyo* on the zabuton. If you have a handheld mokugyo, hold the *mokugyo* in your left hand and hold the stick in your right hand. Hit the mokugyo in front of your body. If you have a *mokugyo* on a zabuton, put the *mokugyo* on your lap or place it on the pew to the right side of your body. Hold the stick and hit the *mokugyo*. I will recite NAMU AMI DABU in three beats and keep the rhythm by beating *the mokugyo*. Something like this. "oNamu oAmi oDabu, oNamu oAmi oDabu, oNamu oAmi oDabu, oNamu oAmi oDabu..." Tempo like Waltz. "One, two, three, one, two three..." Usually we recite "Namu Amida Butsu" not "Namu Ami Dabu" but when we hold the recitation practice, we recite "Namu Ami Dabu" rhythmically while striking the *mokugyo*. Everyone will be hitting the mokugyo at the same time, so please make sure you keep in sync and stay in rhythm.

I think it's very difficult to chant Namu Ami Dabu with your mouth while hitting the *mokugyo* with your hands, but please do your best and try to keep the rhythm with everyone. When the sound of striking the *mokugyo* unites with the recitation practice, you will be able to feel in oneness with Amida Buddha. Your recitation and sound of the *mokugyo* will surely reach Amida Buddha. Try to keep in rhythm and utter Namu Ami Dabu together. We will recite for 10 minutes. You don't need to focus or concentrate your mind. You don't need to try to empty your mind. You don't need to unite with nature. You simply just call Amida's name repeatedly. If you call His Name, He will respond to you and guide you to enlightenment. Ok, then, let's get started.

(After recitation practice)

Today, we observed our Juya Service by striking the mokugyo and reciting "Namu Amida Butsu" many times. This is the Jodo Shu style of meditation practice calling out Amida's name. Uttering Amida Buddha's name develops our faith and gets rid of our delusion in our mind. I am sure Amida Buddha will listen to your recitation and shine his Love and Compassion upon us. Also, your deceased loved ones who are in Amida Buddha's Compassionate Land, called the Pure Land, listened to your recitation during the service. Listening to your recitation, Amida Buddha and your deceased loved ones will send you love, mercy, and wisdom. Please continue to come to attend the temple services, help with activities and events, and receive Amida's Love and Compassion.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP DUES (2025)

Stephen Bowers (2024 & 2025)
Mayumi Spengel (new member)

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

George Masatsugu
(In memory of Shizue Masatsugu)
Tammy Momohara
(In memory of Sandra Endo)
Gayle Gonsalves
(In memory of Marian Nakagawa)
Karen Sonstegard
(In memory of Hatsu Ebisui)
Glenn Ebisui
(In memory of Hatsu Ebisui)
Nadine Matsukawa
(In memory of Hatsu Ebisui)

PATIO DONATIONS

Masatsugu Family Waialua HS Class of 64
Nadine Matsukawa

SUNDAY SCHOOL DONATIONS

Clayton Plemer

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Clayton Plemer

JUYA FAMILY SERVICE (Nov. 3, 2024)

Nadine Matsukawa	Dennis Nakamura
Melanie Matsui	Keith Yamauchi
Shinae Sakai	Jennifer Pang
Joan Yamamoto	Grace Iwane
Shari Nakaoka	David Koizumi
Myra Shiratori	

BIRTHDAY DONATIONS

Pearl Choi
(In memory of Kiyono Kamiyama)

BON FESTIVAL FOR 2025

The Board of Directors of Haleiwa Jodo Mission has decided the dates of our 2025 O-bon Services will be August 1 & 2, 2025. As usual, a Bon Dance will be held on both nights and the Toro Nagashi will be held on August 2 at 9:00 pm.

The first toro nagashi was held in 1955 by Rev. Shiratori. We will observe the 71st toro nagashi next year. The service has been supported by the members, friends, and neighbors of Haleiwa Jodo Mission for many years.

We really need your help to succeed in our big event. Please mark these dates in your calendar and help us make it a successful Bon Festival 2025.

FIRST SUNDAY OF DECEMBER

The first Sunday of December will be a Bodhi Day Service starting at 10:00 am at Haleiwa Jodo Mission Buddhist Temple. Lunch will be served. Please join us.

YEAR-END GENERAL CLEANUP

We need your help! The Board of the Haleiwa Jodo Mission is scheduled to hold the year-end general cleanup on December 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Without everyone's support, the temple cannot survive. Please help us! Lunch will be served after the project for all volunteers.

NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICES

The New Year's Eve & New Year's Day Services will be held on December 31, 2024 at 11:45 pm. Please bring your old omamori to burn. We will strike the gong 108 times to discard our desires and renew our vows to Amida Buddha. Those who have old omamori, please bring them to the temple before or to the service. New Year's food will be served after the service. Let us welcome the bright new year at Haleiwa Jodo Mission!!!!

IN SYMPATHY

We would like to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Sandra Endo, who passed away on July 29, 2024. The private funeral service was held at the Mililani Mortuary on November 7, officiated by Rev. Ezaki.

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER

13 th YEAR	HAYASHI, HAROLD DEC. 6, 2012 TAKAHASHI, CHIEKO DEC. 29, 2012
25 th YEAR	KUNIHISA, LAWRENCE DEC. 1, 2000
37 th YEAR	KAMEOKA, NOBORU DEC. 15, 1988

PET MEMORIAL

Available to Members and Non-Members



With Love, We Remember