

APRIL 2022

I am a link in the Buddha's golden chain of love that stretches around the world. I must keep my link bright and strong. I will try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself. I will try to think pure and beautiful thoughts, to say pure and beautiful words, and to do pure and beautiful deeds, knowing that on what I do now depends not only my happiness or unhappiness, but also that of others. May every link in the Buddha's golden chain of love become bright and strong, and may we all attain perfect peace.

“Human Being” or “Authentic Self”?

As we approach the Spring season and we recently just changed our clocks (we should just end this daylight savings charade altogether!) there is a feeling of renewed energy in the air. I think this is also reinforced with the fact that Covid cases are drastically dropping and our situation is looking very hopeful. However, there are new problems that face humanity, namely the Russian aggression in Ukraine. It seems that peace is always so far away and out of reach for humanity.



I would like to provide the reader with a poem that might promote some time for reflection. It reads as follows:

「人間に生まれるのはむずかしい でも人として生きていくのは もっとむずかしい」

Ningen ni umareru nowa muzukashii demo hito toshite ikiteikunowa motto muzukashii

“To be born as a human being is difficult. But to live as an authentic self is even more difficult.”

What this Buddhist poem is trying to say is that in the cycle of birth-and-death we have come into many existences before coming to this one. We are now living as sentient beings. However, what is even more difficult than to have this opportunity to enter this world as a human being, is to be able to live as an authentic self. This distinction between “human being” and “authentic self” is something worth thinking about. What do you think makes this difference?

From a Jodo Shinshu standpoint, all sentient beings live within this world of blind passions. We are meandering, trying to find the meaning of life, but it is hard to find that meaning because many of us look to and rely on things that are impermanent. However, when we encounter the great life source that sustains everyone and everything, including all sentient beings, we no longer meander. Our hearts become anchored by the world of Great Wisdom and Compassion, where we are now able to live fully and authentically. We are no longer sentient beings that are wandering, but rather, living truly as authentic individuals supported by the great sustaining life source.

Do we want to live meandering in the world of delusion, holding onto things in this world that will only give us temporary satisfaction? As was once told to me, “You can buy that Tesla, but you can’t take it with you when you die.” Or do we want to live spiritually anchored, defined not by the things we own, but rather, where every moment lived is an indispensable and invaluable moment? If so, let’s embark on the Nembutsu path together because that’s what I want too! Gassho.

1. My Personal Podcast Covering Jodo Shinshu Buddhism

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/no-doubt-a-shin-buddhist-approach/id1511351502>

2. Our Weekly Sunday Services Can Be Found Here:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/shin-buddhist-sangha-services/id1517181914>

「人間」対「人」

春の季節が近づいてきました。この時期になりますと生き生きとした感じがします。コロナの感染者の数も減少していき、やっと少し楽な感じがします。しかし、世の中の悩みというものが延々と続きます。現在、ウクライナに起きている問題を見ますと、人間の楽しみと苦しみの違いが一枚の紙のようになんか変わると気付かされます。人間の「平和」というものは、一体どこにあるのかということを考えさせられます。

この間、次の文章を読み、非常に興味深く感じました。

「人間に生まれるのはむずかしい でも人として生きていくのは もっとむずかしい」

“To be born as a human being is difficult. But to live as an authentic self is even more difficult.”

読者はこれを読まれて、どのようなことを思い浮かべられるでしょうか。私たちは今まで永遠の昔から生死というものを繰り返してきています。そしてついに、人間としてこの世に現れました。その出来事は、大変稀なことでしたが、それより稀なものがあります。それは、本当の「人」として生きることが、さらに稀なことだと仏教が教えてくれています。この「人間」と「人」の違いはどこにあるのでしょうか。

浄土真宗では、一切の衆生は煩悩を抱えながらこの世を生きていると説きます。この世をぶらぶらと歩くような感じで、人生の意味をあっちこっちに行ったり来たりして探しています。しかし、抛りどころとするものが無常のものである限り、その本当の意味を見出すことができないのです。全ての命を支えてくれる無限のはたらきと出会うことによるのみ、心のぶれがなくなります。これは煩悩が消えるということではなく、煩悩を抱えながら、その煩悩が真実の世界との出逢いの障りにならなくなるということです。そして限りない智慧と慈悲の世界が私の支えとなり、自分らしい自分として生きていくことが可能となるのです。



Services for April 2022

April 3, 2022 – Shotsuki Hoyo

10:00 A. M.

Please join us in-person in the Hondo or virtually via Zoom (**Hybrid service**).
At this monthly memorial service, we will honor those loved ones
who passed away in the month of April.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this Hybrid service.

Dharma School will meet after service.

April birthdays will be celebrated.

Japanese Dharma message follows the English service.

April 10, 2022 – Hanamatsuri

10 A.M.

Hanamatsuri is the commemoration of the birth of Gautama Siddhartha in Lumbini Garden.
On this auspicious occasion, we remember and pay homage to
the founder who later discovered the Buddha Dharma, and
brought to everyone the path to find true peace.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this **Hybrid service**.

Dharma School will follow service.

April 17, 2022 – Family Service

10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this **Hybrid service**.

April 24, 2022 – Family Service

10 A.M.

Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will officiate this **Hybrid service**.



SACBC Hanamido

Dharma School students will be decorating our Hanamido for our Hybrid Hanamatsuri service this year! **Come help on Saturday, April 9, 10 am, Hondo classrooms. Please bring any flowers you have from your garden!**

Those attending the service in person, will be able to pour sweet tea on the image of the baby Buddha.

Masks are highly recommended to attend in person.

COVID-19 UPDATE as of 3/8/2022

It has been two years (almost to the day) since we decided to close the church due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have gone through many ups and downs during this time. The COVID Task Force has reviewed data from CDC, State of California, and Alameda County and have determined to reopen the church based on the following factors:

- CDC Community Level is in medium (yellow) zone
- State and County have rescinded the indoor mask mandate and now a strong recommendation to wear mask indoors
- [SACBC COVID-19 Reopening Grid](#)

This is great news for SACBC and the Sangha.

The SACBC COVID-19 committee along with Sensei has decided to start having hybrid (ZOOM and in-person) services starting on **Sunday April 3rd**. We recommend that participants to the service continue to wear masks while in the Hondo. We will have hand sanitizer and masks available.

As I mentioned earlier, we will continue to have the services on ZOOM. We have a new audio-visual system in the Hondo. I would like to thank Kyle Yamasaki for all of his hard work and dedication in getting the system up and running.



IN MEMORIAM

*We are sad to announce that
Mrs. Taeko Wakamatsu passed away in early March.
She was a caring friend and an active member of our church for many years,
until she moved to Southern California to live with her daughter.
Funeral services were held on March 12, near where she was living.*



What's Up Dharma School?

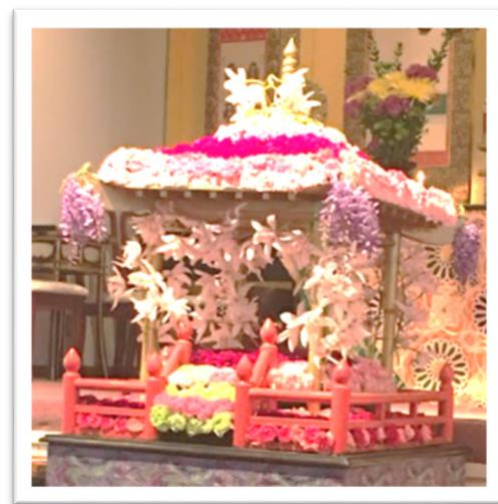
Hard to believe Spring is approaching soon! Dharma students will be putting together a short program for Hanamatsuri.

We had the opportunity to participate in a practice run for the temple's hybrid Sunday service opening. Students were very excited to see each other in-person and we had students who also joined via zoom. Students from both classes worked together going through a scavenger hunt activity throughout the facility. We were amazed how the younger students quickly found the hidden clues! There are still some issues to work out to make the hybrid an enriching experience on both ends, and appreciate the student's participation.

We are also planning to decorate the Hanamido this year. This will be the first time for some of our students! It will be held on April 9th at 10am in the Hondo. Feel free to bring flowers from your garden!

The following are remaining (tentative) dates for Dharma school. Again, parent-please keep an eye out for our emails, for there may be some last minute changes we may need to inform you on.

- April 3, 2022
- April 9, 2022 (Hanamido decorating @ 10am)
- April 10, 2022-Hanamatsuri
- May 1, 2022
- May 15, 2022
- June 5, 2022-graduation (in-person)



In Gassho,

Cathleen and Betty



APRIL EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| April 3 – SUN | SHOTSUKI HOYO; HYBRID SERVICE
JAPANESE DHARMA MESSAGE AFTER ENGLISH SERVICE |
| April 9 – SAT | HANAMIDO DECORATING AT 10:00 AM |
| April 10 – SUN | HANAMATSURI CELEBRATION; HYBRID SERVICE
DHARMA SCHOOL AFTER SERVICE |
| April 17 – SUN | FAMILY SERVICE; HYBRID SERVICE |
| April 24 – SUN | FAMILY SERVICE; HYBRID SERVICE
DHARMA SCHOOL AFTER SERVICE |

ALL SUNDAY SERVICES START AT 10:00 AM IN-PERSON OR VIA ZOOM

Meeting ID: 818 7869 6300

Passcode: 549504

You can also call-in using your phone by dialing **(669) 900-6833**.