



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5386

NOVEMBER 2024

November Service and Events:

- 11/03/2024 – Eitaikyo/ November Shotsuki Service/ Dharma School
10 a.m. - Rev. Mieko Majima
- 11/23/2024 – Tsukemono Festival
- 12/21/2024 – Mochitsuki
- 12/22/2024 – Bodhi Day/ December Shotsuki Service/ Dharma School
10 a.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima

Reflection During Eitaikyo: A Buddha's Lesson on Timeless Gratitude

As we enter November, Eitaikyo brings us a special time for deep reflection on the Buddha's timeless teachings and an opportunity to honor those who have passed on. It is a moment to remember the Buddha's boundless compassion and wisdom, and to express our gratitude for the guidance we receive.

One day, a man approached his Buddhist master, his heart weighed down by the difficulties he faced in his life. He had experienced loss and confusion and felt trapped by his own suffering. In a soft voice, he asked, "How can I find peace when life's sorrows feel so heavy on my heart?"

The master, having spent years studying the Buddha's teachings, smiled gently and responded, "The Buddha taught that suffering is part of the human experience for all beings. However, it is not the suffering itself that holds us back—it is how we respond to it. Have you looked closely at your heart? Perhaps you are carrying this burden as if it were yours to bear alone."

The man was puzzled and asked, "But my suffering is my own. How could anyone else understand the pain I feel when their lives and experiences are so different from mine?"

With deep compassion, the master explained, "The Buddha's teachings remind us that while our challenges may differ, the way we experience suffering is shaped by our hearts. What may seem overwhelming to one person might not affect another in the same way. This shows that suffering is not only about what happens to us, but about how we perceive and handle it. The Buddha encourages us to calm our hearts by focusing on Amida, the working of immeasurable life and unhindered light. When we open our hearts to Amida's compassion and recite the Nembutsu, we can find peace."

The man listened closely, his mind slowly beginning to clear. He felt a sense of relief, as if the weight he had been carrying had become lighter. "How can I truly feel this peace in my life? What must I do to find this light?" he asked with hope in his voice.

The master replied, "There is no special task you need to complete. The Buddha's teachings are simple. Open your heart and recite the Nembutsu with sincerity. In doing so, you will come to feel Amida's compassion working in your life. Even in

times of suffering, you will never be alone. Amida's light will always guide and support you."

Moved by his master's words, the man began to recite the Nembutsu daily, offering his gratitude to the Buddha. Day by day, he found peace as he realized he was part of an unbroken stream of wisdom and compassion. His burdens began to lift as he learned how Nembutsu works in his heart, and by changing his perspective, he found the strength to face his suffering with peace.

As we gather for Eitaikyo, we are reminded of the Buddha's precious teachings, passed down through the ages. It is through reflection and gratitude that we keep the flame of the Dharma alive, lighting the path for future generations.

This November, let us quiet our hearts and reflect on the Buddha's infinite wisdom. By reciting the Nembutsu, we honor the past, strengthen our connection to the present, and pave the way for peace in the future. Guided by Amida's boundless light, may we all be filled with gratitude and peace

Rev. Mieko Majima

皆みなさん、いかがお過ごしでしょうか。早はやいもので、もう十一月じゅういちがつです。お寺てらには、数多かずおおくの貴重きちょうな宝物たからものが伝つたえられています、今月こんげつは、お寺てらに伝つたわるご絵伝えでんについてお話はなしいたしましょう。「ご絵伝えでん」というのは、親鸞聖人しんらんしょうにんの活躍かつやくを描えがいた美うつくしい絵巻物えまきものです。

「ご絵伝えでん」に語かたられるお話はなしのひとつに、親鸞聖人しんらんしょうにんが関東かんとを教化きょうけして歩あるかれていたときのお話はなしがあります。親鸞聖人しんらんしょうにんはあるとき、激はげしい吹雪ふぶきに遭あい、ある武士ぶしの家いえの門もんを叩たたきますが、「お釈迦様しゃかさまの弟子でしであるなら、木きの下したや石いしの上うえを宿やどにするのが伝統でんとうだ」と言いわれ、宿やどを断ことわられてしまいます。親鸞聖人しんらんしょうにんは仕方しかたなく、武士ぶしの屋敷やしきの木きの下したで石いしを枕まくらにして休やすみました。

その夜よる、武士ぶしの枕元まくらもとに観音菩薩かんのんぼさつさまが現あらわれ、「門もんの前まえに阿弥陀様あみださまがいらっしゃるので、今いま、教おしえを聞きかなければ永遠えいえんに迷まよいの世界せかいから抜ぬけ出だすことはできないだろう」と告つげました。驚おどろいた武士ぶしは、親鸞聖人しんらんしょうにんを家いえへ招まねいてお話はなしを聞きき、その教おしえに感激かんげきした武士ぶしは、その夜よのうちに親鸞聖人しんらんしょうにんの弟子でしとなったと言いわれています。

また、もうひとつのお話はなしは、平次郎へいじろうという弟子でしにまつわるものです。平次郎へいじろうには妻つまがいて、彼かれが留守るすの間あいだ、妻つまは親鸞聖人しんらんしょうにんから授さずかったお名号みょうごうにお花はなや燈明とうみょうを供そなえ、日々ひびお念仏ねんぶつを称となえていました。ある日ひの夕暮ゆうぐれ、平次郎へいじろうが家いえに帰かえると、妻つまが小ちいさい声こえでなにか言いつているのを耳みにしました。それは妻つまが称となえていたお念仏ねんぶつだったのですが、平次郎へいじろうは、妻つまが秘密ひみつの手紙てがみを読よんでいるのだと勘違かんちがいしてしまいます。妻つまはけんめいに否定ひていして逃にげ回まわりますが、荒々あらあらしい平次郎へいじろうは怒いかりにまかせて妻つまを斬きり殺ころしてしまいました。

その後ご、妻つまの遺体いたいを竹藪たけやぶに埋うめ、家いえに戻もどると、なんと斬きり殺ころしたはずの妻つまが平次郎へいじろうを迎むかえたのです。驚おどろいた平次郎へいじろうは、竹藪たけやぶに戻もどって土つちを掘ほり返かえすと、そこには斬きられて血潮ちしおに染そまったお名号みょうごうが現あらわれました。それは、妻つまが親鸞聖人しんらんしょうにんから授さずかったものでした。この不思議ふしぎな出来事できごとをきっかけに、平次郎へいじろうは心こころを改あらため、毎日まいにちお念仏ねんぶつを称となえるようになったと言われています。そして、この平次郎へいじろうこそが、後のちに『「嘆異抄たんにしょう」』を書いた唯円ゆいえんであると伝つたえられています。

このように、人ひとはどのようなきっかけでお念仏ねんぶつを称となえるようになるのか、わかりません。親鸞聖人しんらんしょうにんやその門弟もんでいたたちが辿たどった道みちのりを思おもい返かえし、私わたしたちもまた、日々ひびのお念仏ねんぶつを大切にせつにして生きていきたいものです。お念仏ねんぶつを通とおして、私わたしたちは阿弥陀あみださまの無限むげんの慈悲じひと智慧ちえに包つつ

まれ、迷まよいのない世界せかいへと導みちびかれていくのです。皆様みなさまも、どうかお念仏ねんぶつを称となえて、共に安やすらかな心こころで日々ひびを過すごされますように。

The Turtle and His Flying Adventure

Did you have fun on Halloween? What kind of costume did you wear? Halloween is a great time to dress up and become someone new, even just for a day. Whether you are a spooky ghost, a superhero, or something silly, it's always exciting to try being something different. But sometimes, being someone else doesn't always work out as expected. Today, I want to share a fun story about a turtle who tried to be something he's not. Let's see what happened!

Once upon a time, a slow but thoughtful turtle lived in a peaceful forest. His two best friends, a pair of birds, loved to fly high above the trees. The turtle watched them every day and wished he could fly, too.

One day, he shared his wish with the birds. "I want to fly like you and see the world from the sky!"

The birds thought for a moment. "We have an idea! Bite down on this stick, and we'll hold the ends and fly you into the air! But remember, don't open your mouth, or you'll fall!"

The turtle agreed and held onto the stick tightly. Soon, he was flying! The forest looked so small from up high, and the rivers sparkled like ribbons.

The animals below noticed the flying turtle. "Look! A turtle is flying! How amazing!" they shouted.

The turtle was so excited he wanted to shout back. He forgot the warning and opened his mouth to speak. "Yes, it's—" But before he could finish, he let go of the stick and tumbled to the ground.

Luckily, his hard shell protected him, but he learned an important lesson: sometimes, it's better to stay quiet and think before you speak!

What do you think of this story? It teaches us something important not just for children but also for adults: Sometimes, when we get super excited, we forget to stop and think! Just like the turtle, who was so thrilled to be flying, he forgot to keep quiet and — oops! — he fell. But here's the fun part: it's totally okay to enjoy being who we are and what we can do instead of trying to be like someone else. After all, turtles — and all of us — are awesome just the way we are!

Rev. Mieko Majim

In case you didn't know

- Keep up to date on what's happening at the Buddhist Church of Fowler by looking at The White Path (Monthly newsletter) online. Visit: fowlerbc.org

Board of Governors – November District IV

Rijis

Craig Honda
Sharon Asakawa

Toban

Tayoko Honda
Sharon Asakawa

The Shotsuki names for the month of November are:

Hina Tsuboi
Wasa Kuramoto
Shizuno Matsuoka
Mieko Honda
Masajiro Miyake
Tamayo Hirasuna
Mikiye Mukai
Haruso Kimura
Yasuo Fujikawa

Kenji Takimoto
Masuno Nishina
Nobu Shimoda
Itsuyo Iwamoto
Haruko Toyama
Dennis Nakagawa
Yoshimi Nakahira
Matsuso Takeda
Patsy Ashida
Ben Nakamura
*Taeko Yamashita
Chizu Miyagawa
Marjorie Yuriko Miyasaki
Fred Masakiyo Sakazaki
Masami Ray Nishina
Kenji Takimoto
Sachiko Onaka
Shigeru Shig Uchiyama
Kim Nishina
Lily Yuriko Kato
Russell Shimizu
Toshiko Arasuna*
Mitsuro Tomoyasu
Harry Honda
Shirley Honda
Howard Matsumura
Tomoko Lily Kuwamoto
Robert Kondo
George Teraoka

Upcoming Events

Tsukemono Festival

The YBA has been busy organizing Fowler Buddhist Church. As you know, the First Tsukemono Festival was the wonderful idea of Tom Nagata which made our Memorial Wall possible.

Now through the leadership of Blake Honda, the tradition is continuing. The festival is scheduled for Saturday, November 23rd, from 11am – 3pm. **To submit an entry please arrive at 10:30am.**

Mochitsuki

The Fowler Buddhist Church is continuing the mochitsuki tradition on Saturday, December 21, 2024. A limited amount will be made.

The order form will be included in next month's (December) White Path.

September 2024 Donations

Fall Ohigan

\$ 40.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 30.00	Janie Yuen
\$ 30.00	Sera Family
\$ 25.00	Gail Nakamura
\$ 20.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 20.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki

In Memory of Joyce Kubose

\$ 20.00	Marlene Kubota
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Special Donation

\$ 200.00	Michael & Beverly Maruyama
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Fall Ohigan/Shotsuki

\$ 20.00	Ms. Sharon Asakawa
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Shotsuki

\$ 150.00	Sakoda Family
\$ 100.00	Sera Family
\$ 100.00	Clevenger Family
\$ 50.00	Cliff & Sharon Fukushima
\$ 50.00	Earl Honda
\$ 30.00	Janis & Wayne Sutow
\$ 30.00	Ben & Noreen Yosako
\$ 30.00	Cindy Inouye
\$ 20.00	M/M George Hashimoto
\$ 20.00	Mitsuye Shinkawa
\$ 20.00	Honda Family

Dharma School

\$ 30.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
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Save the Date

to celebrate the 75th anniversary of

THE INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

Saturday, November 16th 2024
2-5:30pm

In person at the JSC
Join us for a multi-Buddhist
ritual, student panels,
reception and more.
Reservation details to follow

