

## Fall Term Closing Ceremony - BWZ

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Prep: Programs to all, light candle and charcoal on the altar.

Everyone gathers in the hall, forming a ryoban by standing in two equal rows, facing each other.

Incense Offering: Teacher makes incense offering. ●●●  
Then remains on the haishiki.

Ryoban Incense Offering: Members of the ryoban come up two by two to offer incense at the main altar.

Dedication: When everyone in the ryoban has offered incense, someone comes forward, bows to the teacher, then turns to face those assembled and recites the following:

The autumn wind has blown across the fields, and the darkness of winter controls all directions. The lord of enlightenment emerges and on this day the Dharma has been fulfilled everywhere. Nothing disturbed us for ninety days and all trainees were at peace. The power and virtue of the teaching protected us and we are deeply grateful. With respect and devotion we chant the names of Buddha and bow to the Bodhisattvas who guard this temple:

Chanting the names of Buddha (all together; precentor hits kaishaku before each line):

- Vairochana Buddha, pure Dharmakaya
- Lochana Buddha, complete Sambhogakaya
- Shakyamuni Buddha, myriad Nirmanakaya
- Maitreya Buddha, of future birth
- All Buddhas throughout space and time
- Lotus of the Wondrous Dharma, Mahayana Sutra

- Manjushri Bodhisattva, great wisdom
- Samantabhadra Bodhisattva, great activity
- Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva, great compassion
- Kshitigarba Bodhisattva, great vow
- All honored ones, Bodhisattvas, Mahasattvas
- Wisdom beyond wisdom, Maha prajna paramita

Closing Statement: Starting with person closest to the Buddha's right, one at a time each person makes a brief term closing statement if they wish to.

When everyone is done, someone recites the following:

The virtue obtained by chanting the names of the Ten Buddhas protects the True Law and bestows on us the Blessings of the Earth. We beseech her, and all the Bodhisattvas, to share the force of their spirit with us, that our deeds will be fruitful, our joy pure, and our bliss eternal and selfless. Let us chant again:

Closing Invocation: All Together –

- All Buddhas throughout space and time,
- All Honored Ones, Bodhisattvas, Mahasattvas,
- Wisdom beyond wisdom, Maha Prajna Paramita.

Guiding teacher: The Dharma has been fulfilled, and I deeply appreciate the efforts of all trainees. I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart. (Monjin) All of us are travelers on the same pilgrimage. Today our training period is over. When this ceremony is finished please feel free to go wherever you wish.

Teacher goes to the altar, blows out the candle, faces the sangha, and says in firm voice: "Rest."