

## Spring Term Opening Ceremony - Hybrid

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### Teacher:

If you have an altar nearby, go to it and light the candle, make an offering of incense or flower petals if you have the option. Stand for a moment and recall your aspiration for this term. Then make a full or standing bow and return to your seat.

Offering: Those in the Zendo go up to the altar to offer flower petals in pairs

Dedication: When everyone is done making offerings, someone recites the following:

Imperceptibly, the spring wind gently blows over the fields, and the Sun and Moon control all directions. The Dharma King cannot leave. All the trainees have gathered together, and they pay their respects to the Bodhisattvas by offering their vows, and reciting the names of Buddha that possess immeasurable merit. We pray that the light of Truth shall shine of itself, and that the virtue of the Bodhisattvas that protect this Temple will be transferred to us. We ask for protection throughout this training period and pray that it will come to a peaceful conclusion. Together let us chant the names of Buddha with respect and honor.

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
- ☐ Kshitagarba Bodhisattva, great vow
- ☐ All honored ones, Bodhisattvas, Mahasattvas
- ☐ Wisdom beyond wisdom, Maha prajna paramita

Sharing of Vows: Someone volunteers to go first, then passes to someone else by naming them.

Teacher briefly speaks about the training term.

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.