



ENGLISH SERVICE CHANTING BOOK



BUDDHA MOUNTAIN CENTER – PHAT SON TEMPLE

5535 Florist Rd. Roanoke VA 24012

Revised: December 2024

PRE-SERVICE SILENCE

Sangha members arrive and take a seat on cushion or chair.

Large Bowl sounds x 3

When the large bowl begins to sound, the Sangha forms two lines on each side of the room facing each other, palms together.

SERVICE BEGINS

Hand Bell sounds x 1 - The two Sangha lines, in unison, bow to each other.

Hand Bell sounds x 1 - The two Sangha lines, in unison, turn & bow to the Altar.

Hand Bell sounds x 1 - Sangha returns to their seats, remains standing, facing the Altar, palms together.

Hand Bell sounds x 1 - *Leader dedicates merit for special Intentions.*

INCENSE OFFERING

Large Bowl sounds x 3 - Sangha listens in silence, palms together.

Leader lights incense.

Leader reads the incense offering,

In gratitude, we offer this incense throughout space and time to all Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. May it be fragrant as earth herself, reflecting careful efforts, wholehearted awareness, and the fruit of understanding, slowly ripening.

Large Bowl sounds x 1

May we and all beings be companions of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. May we awaken from forgetfulness and realize our true home. For the long-term fortune, welfare and happiness of such benefactors as our mothers, fathers, others and for ourselves, we honor the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha with these offerings, such as candles and incense.

Large Bowl sounds x 1

Namo Incense Canopy Bodhisattva.

Namo Incense Canopy Bodhisattva.

Namo Incense Canopy Bodhisattva, Mahasattva.

Large Bowl X 1 sounds - Sangha bows to the Altar, palms together.

Leader gives incense stick to a Sangha member.

Sangha member plants the incense stick in the bowl at the back of room.

SHORT DHARMA READING - Optional

BOWING

START RECORDING #1

Leader recites,

I bow to the Buddha.

Sangha answers in unison, chanting, - Hand Bell in rhythm to chanting.

The one who shows me the way....
in life....

Nam-mo Budd-ha-yaaa.

Large Bowl x 1 sounds.

Sangha prostrates and bows to the Altar.

Leader recites.

I bow to the Dharma.

Sangha answers in unison, chanting, - Hand Bell sets rhythm for chanting

The way of under-stand-ding....
and love....

Nam-mo Dhar-ma-yaaa

Large Bowl x 1 sounds.

Sangha prostrates and bows to Altar.

Leader recites,

I bow to the Sangha.

Sangha answers in unison, chanting, - Hand Bell sets rhythm for chanting.

The commun-ity that lives in harmon-ny....
and aware-ness....

Nam-mo Sang-ha-yaaa

Large Bowl x 3 sounds.

Sangha prostrates and bows to Altar

END RECORDING #1

Sangha takes a seat on cushion or chair, hands relaxed.

INVITE THE DHARMA INSTRUMENTS

B B B

B = Floor Bowl

O O O O O O O

O = Wooden Fish

B O B O B O

O O O

Sangha recites 3 times, chanting - Fish in rhythm to chanting

Na-mo tas-sa faga-va-to a-ra-ha-to sam-ma sam-budd-ha-ssa

SUTRA OPENING VERSE

Leader recites

The Dharma is deep and lovely.

We now have a chance to see,

Study and to practice it.

We vow to realize its true meaning.

Floor Bowl sounds x 1

Namo Opening Sutra Treasures Bodhisattva.

Namo Opening Sutra Treasures Bodhisattva.

Namo Opening Sutra Treasures Bodhisattva, Mahasattva

Floor Bowl sounds x 1

THE HEART OF PERFECT UNDERSTANDING SUTRA

START RECORDING #2

Leader recites,

Maha Prajna Paramita Hri-da-ya Sutra

Floor Bowl sounds x 1

Sangha joins, chanting - Fish in rhythm to chanting.

A-va-lo-ki-tes-va-ra Bod-hi-satt-va,

When prac-ti-cing deep-ly the Praj-na Pa-ra-mi-ta

Per-ceived that all five skan-das are em-pty

and is saved from all suf-fer-ing and dis-tress.

Floor Bowl sounds x 1

Sha-ri-pu-tra,
 Form does not dif-fer from emp-ti-ness;
 Emp-ti-ness does not dif-fer from form.
 That which is form is emp-ti-ness,
 That which is emp-ti-ness is form.
 The same is true of feel-lings, per-cep-tions, im-pul-ses, con-sci-ous-ness.

Floor Bowl sounds x 1

Sha-ri-pu-tra,
 All dhar-mas are marked with emp-ti-ness.
 They do not a-ppear or dis-a-ppear, are not tain-ted or pure,
 do not in-crease or de-crease. There-fore, in emp-ti-ness no form,
 no feel-lings, per-cept-ions, im-pul-ses, con-sci-ous-ness.
 No eyes, no ears, no nose, no tongue, no bo-dy, no mind;
 No co-lor, no sound, no smell, no taste, no touch,
 No ob-ject of mind, no realm of eyes and so forth
 Un-til no realm of mind con-sci-ous-ness.
 no ig-nor-ance and al-so no ex-tinc-tion of it, and so forth
 un-til no old age and death and al-so no ex-tinc-tion of them.
 No suf-fer-ing, no o-rig-i-na-tion, no stop-ping, no path, no cog-ni-tion,
 Al-so no a-ttain-ment with noth-thing to a-ttain.

Floor Bowl sounds x1

The Bod-hi-satt-va de-pends on Praj-na Pa-ra-mi-ta
 And the mind is no hind-rance,
 With-out an-ny hind-rance no fears ex-ist.
 Far a-part from eve-ry per-ver-ted view, one dwells in Nir-va-na.
 In the three times all Budd-dhas de-pend on Praj-na Pa-ra-mi-ta
 and a-ttain A-nut-ta-ra Sam-yak Sam-bod-hi.

Bowl sounds x 1

There-fore know that Praj-na Pa-ra-mi-ta
 is the great trans-cen-dent man-tra,
 Is the great bright man-tra,
 Is the ut-most man-tra,
 is the su-preme man-tra,
 Which is a-ble to re-lieve all suf-fer-ing and
 is true, not false.
 So pro-claim the Praj-na Pa-ra-mi-ta man-tra,
 Pro-claim the man-tra which says:

Bowl sounds x 1

Gate gate para-gate para-sam-gate Bodhi-sva-ha
 Gate gate para-gate para-sam-gate Bodhi-sva-ha
 Gate gate para-gate para-sam-gate Bodhi-sva-haaaaa

Floor Bowl sounds x 1

END RECORDING #2

PRE-MEDITATION MANTRA

START RECORDING #3

Leader & Sangha recite together until leader ends - Fish in rhythm to chanting.

“Om Ma Ni Pad Me Hum”

Floor Bowl sounds x 1

END RECORDING #3

Leader recites:

Body, speech and mind held in perfect oneness.
 I send my heart along with the sound of the bell
 May the hearers awaken from forgetfulness
 and transcend all anxiety and sorrow
 Listening to the bell..... I listen, I listen
 To this wonderful sound
 That brings me back to my true home.

SILENT MEDITATION

The meditation period will last between 10 and 20 minutes.

Sangha stands after completion of the meditation, palms together.

THE THREE REFUGES

START RECORDING #4

Leader recites,

To the Buddha, - Bowl sounds x1

Sangha answers, chanting, - Hand Bell sets rhythm for chanting.

I return and rely....
 Vowing that all liv-ing beings....
 Pro-found-ly under-stand....
 the great way....
 and bring forth the bod-hi mind....
 Budd-ham sa-ra-nam ga-chaaa-mi....

Bowl sounds x 1

Sangha prostrates and bows to the Altar, palms together,

Leader recites,

To the Dharma - **Bowl sounds x1**

Sangha answers, chanting,- Hand Bell sets rhythm for chanting.

I return and rely....
 vowing that all living beings.....
 Deep-ly en-ter....
 the su-tra treas-ures....
 and have wis-dom like the sea....
 Dhar-mam sa-ra-nam ga-chaaa-mi....

Bowl sounds x 1

Sangha Prostrates and bows to Altar, palms together.

Leader recites,

To the Sangha, - **Bowl sounds x1**

Sangha answers, chanting

Hand Bell sets rhythm for chanting.

I return and rely....
 Vowing that all living beings....
 form to-geth-er....
 a great a-ssem-bly....
 in har-mon-ny with-out ob-struc-tions....
 Sang-ham sa-ra-nam ga-chaaa-mi.

Bowl sounds x 3

Sangha prostrates and bows to Altar, palms together.

SHARING MERIT

Leader recites,

May all beings be well.

Sangha answers,

May all beings be well.

Leader recites,

May all beings be happy.

Sangha answers,

May all beings be happy.

Leader recites,

May all beings be peaceful.

Sangha answers,

May all beings be peaceful.

END RECORDING #4

Sangha and Leader hold palms together and recite,

Sadhu, Sadhu, Sadhu

Bowls sounds x 1

Sangha sits for Dharma Talk, hands relaxed

Dharma Talk

Leader gives Dharma Talk followed by discussion and Q & A

Sangha Stands palms together

Closing

Bowl sounds x 3

Leader recites,

May we share the merit we have gained today with others

Go forth for the benefit of the many

For the happiness of the many

With care for the world and for the good welfare

and happiness of all sentient beings.

Sangha bows to altar

END OF SERVICE

Meaning of Items Used in the Temple

- Incense:** Burning incense can represent the spreading of good ethics, morality and/or practicing the “middle path”, one of the goals of Buddhist practice.
- Bells:** The sound of the bell has many meanings. We use it as a means to focus our minds before chanting, meditation or discussion. We also use it to begin and end our chants and to occasionally signify a key point or passage in a chant.
- Candles:** The lighted candle signifies the light of wisdom.
- Flowers:** Flowers symbolize impermanence and the cycle of life and death. From a seed in the earth they grow to become fragrant and beautiful. They progress to being scentless, withering and dying, returning to decay and nurture the earth for the next seed.
- Fruit:** Represents that all actions - cause a result or effect.
- Water:** Represents purity, clarity and calmness, the goals we seek in practicing the teachings of the Buddha.

Meaning of Phases Used in the Service

- Bodhisattvas:** A person who can reach nirvana but delays doing so out of compassion. to save suffering beings.
- Namo:** To “bow to,” is used as a salutation or greeting of reverence.
- Namo tassa bhagavato arahato samma sambuddhassa:**
I pay homage to him the exalted one, to the worthy one, to the fully enlightened one.
- Maha Prajna Paramita Hridaya Sutra:** The Heart of the Perfection of Wisdom Sutra
- Mahasattva:** A great bodhisattva who has reached a very high level on the path to awakening.
- Avalokitesvara:** Is a bodhisattva who embodies the compassion of all Buddhas.
- Prajna Paramita:** refers to a perfected way of seeing the nature of reality, as well as to a particular body of Mahāyāna scriptures which discusses this wisdom
- Five Skandas/Aggregates:** The five components that make up our individual self or being: Form, feelings, perceptions, mental formations and consciousness.
-