

Namo Amida Butsu

(The Nembutsu)

In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, Namo Amida Butsu or the Nembutsu is not recited as a mantra or religious practice to gain merit but recited in awareness, joy and appreciation of Amida Buddha's immense Compassion.

The complete phrase, Namo Amida Butsu means "I entrust myself to the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light."



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Mililani Hongwanji

Buddhist Etiquette



*Mililani Hongwanji is a Jodo Shinshu
(Pure Land) Buddhist Temple of the
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii*



Buddhist Etiquette

- ◆ When entering or leaving the temple, bow toward the altar as a sign of respect.
- ◆ When the kansho (temple bell) rings, sit quietly as the service is about to begin.
- ◆ When offering incense, first bow, take a step forward, take a pinch of incense and place it in the incense burner. Then put your hands together (gassho) and bow. If you have a nenju (beads), please use it. Finally, step back and bow again.
- ◆ When not using the nenju, place it on your left wrist or hold it with your left hand.

Shin Buddhist Terms

Amida Buddha

A term used in Shin Buddhism to symbolize Infinite Light and Compassion.

Dharma

The teachings of the Buddha.

Sangha

The Sangha consists of the church members and the people in our community that support and help us.

Three Treasures

The Three Treasures refer to the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha.

Nenju

The Nenju are the beads we use when we gassho.

Gassho

Gassho is a gesture made by reverently putting our hands together with the Nenju, if you have one, symbolizing respect and our gratitude with all life.

Offering of Incense

Incense is offered as a gesture of respect and gratitude.

Gathas

Songs or chanting done during the service.

Kansho

The large temple bell that rings to let people know the service is ready to begin and to sit quietly.

Altar Items

Candles

The candle light symbolize the Wisdom and Compassion of the Buddha.

Flowers

The flowers symbolize the impermanent nature of life.

Rice

The rice, symbolic of our basic sustenance encourages all to share spiritual blessings with everyone.