

Winter Solstice Evening Service 2010

[In City Center courtyard]

Everyone picks up a candle upon entering courtyard and all form an open circle around the altar.

Shashu bow, doshi incense offering, small bell rolldown and three prostrations with four small bells as usual.

Second incense offering, doshi bows at altar ●

Doshi does three more bows on bowing mat ● ● ■

Kokyo announces:

Heart of Great Perfect Wisdom Sutra ~ ●

(As soon as chant has been announced, jiko and ino light a candle from the altar candle and then lights candle of first person on each side. The lighting of candles continues during the chant.)

Avalokiteshvara Bodhisattva, when deeply practicing prajna paramita, clearly saw that all ○ five aggregates are empty and thus relieved all suffering. Shariputra, form does not differ from emptiness, emptiness does not differ from form. Form itself is emptiness, emptiness itself form. Sensations, perceptions, formations, and consciousness are also like this. Shariputra, all dharmas are marked by emptiness; they neither arise nor cease, are neither defiled nor pure, neither increase nor decrease. Therefore, given emptiness, there is no form, no sensation, no perception, no formation, no consciousness; no eyes, no ears, no nose, no tongue, no body, no mind; no sight, no sound, no smell, no taste, no touch, no object of mind, no realm of sight no realm of mind consciousness. There is neither ignorance nor extinction of ignorance neither old age and death, nor extinction of old age and death; no suffering, no cause, no cessation, no path; no knowledge and no attainment. With nothing to attain, a bodhisattva relies on prajna paramita ○, and thus the mind is without hindrance. Without hindrance, there is no fear. Far beyond all inverted views, one realizes nirvana. All buddhas of past, present, and future rely on prajna paramita ○ and thereby attain unsurpassed, complete, perfect enlightenment. Therefore, know the prajna paramita as the great miraculous mantra, the great bright mantra, the supreme mantra, the incomparable mantra, which removes all suffering and is true, not false. Therefore we proclaim the prajna paramita mantra, the mantra that says: ● Gate Gate Paragate ●

Parasamgate Bodhi Svaha ■

