

## Anniversary of the Birth of Founder Nikkyo Niwano

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissyo Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

We, members of [*Dharma center name*], all of pure heart, have gathered to wholeheartedly celebrate the anniversary of Founder Nikkyo Niwano's birth and commemorate the monthly memorial day of Shakyamuni Buddha.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

*(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)*

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Words of Respect
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous  
Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of  
The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;  
The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;  
The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;  
The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast  
Practice;  
The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-  
mahasattvas;  
Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;  
Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;  
Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;  
The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;  
The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];  
The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;  
And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

*(Strike the gong once.)*

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together, all of us gathered here reflect on the meaning of his birth into this world. We express gratitude for our precious encounter with the Dharma through the teachings of the Founder.

We earnestly pray that with the help of sagely guidance and boundless protection, the Founder's original wish for world peace as well as all living beings' attainment of liberation may be achieved.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)