

## **Jukai Ceremony: October 8, 2022**

Please note: dates are subject to change.

The jukai ceremony is a public confirmation of one's life as the life of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. It represents a commitment to your own practice and vows, to the sangha and to working with your jukai teacher (preceptor) during the time of preparation for jukai.

Jukai literally means "to receive the precepts." In the ceremony, you vow to uphold the sixteen precepts, composed of the three refuges, the three pure precepts, and the ten grave precepts. You also receive the rakusu (small Buddhist robe which you will sew), the kechimyaku (lineage papers connecting you to the lineage of people who practiced in the past), and a dharma name (representing qualities of your practice).

Jukai (Lay Ordination) is open to people who:

1. Have practiced with the Clouds in Water sangha (including BIPOC sitting group or affiliated sanghas such as the Zen Bridge Community) for at least a year.
2. Have a regular meditation practice (daily or nearly so).
3. Practice regularly with the Sangha (weekly or nearly so).
4. Are familiar with basic Buddhist teachings of the four noble truths (suffering, cause of suffering, liberation and the path), the dharma seals (impermanence, no separate self, and nirvana), and Zen practices of bowing and chanting.
5. Have formed a relationship with one of the teachers by attending classes, sesshins, or retreats and speaking privately to one of them regarding your motivations for participating in jukai. If you have not already chosen a teacher, you must do so by January, 2022, in order to continue the jukai process. The teacher you choose for this process is called your Preceptor. If you are not sure who to pick, we can assign a preceptor to you.
6. Are willing to make an ongoing commitment to the sangha through various volunteer service positions that are appropriate to one's life circumstances.
7. For teens, the process and requirements are slightly different. Teens or teen parents should contact [Kikan@cloudsinwater.org](mailto:Kikan@cloudsinwater.org) for more information.

Note: Our current plan is to offer jukai every two years. So, if you don't meet the requirements now, you can begin the process in 2023 for the 2024 ceremony.

In preparation for Jukai you will be required to:

1. Attend jukai study classes:
  - a. Zen Treasures: Realizing the Deep Wishes of a Spiritual Life. Five classes, every other Thursday, 7 - 9 pm, September 23 - November 4, 2021.
  - b. **Main Jukai Class (Ten Essential Precepts + final jukai prep) 13 classes, every other Thursday, 7 - 9 pm, April 7 - Sept. 22, 2022.**
2. Attend sewing classes, every Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, January 4 - March 22, 2022.
3. Participate in the practice periods:
  - a. Fall of 2021, Thursdays, September 9 through November 11, 7 - 8 pm. Meetings will take place on the dates that the Zen Treasures class is not meeting, which means you'll need to reserve every Thursday Sept. 9 - Nov. 11.

- b. Spring of 2022, every Wednesday, 7 - 8 pm on Zoom, April 6 - May 18, 2022.
  - c. Fall of 2022, dates to be determined
4. Participate in the following between September, 2021 and September, 2022:
- a. Meet with your Preceptor (jukai teacher) a minimum of once per month.
  - b. Minimum of three days of sesshin.
  - c. Minimum of two Full Moon Precepts recitation ceremony (7 - 8 pm on or near the full moon).
  - d. Minimum of twice monthly Sunday dharma talks, 9 - 10:30 am.
  - e. Minimum of two volunteer activities, such as temple cleaning days.
  - f. Minimum of once per month zazen at Clouds (or on Zoom) in early morning, Noon, or Wednesday evenings. BIPOC sitting group is an option for BIPOC members.
5. Give some amount of dana/donation to your Preceptor (jukai teacher), sewing teacher(s), other teachers and Clouds in Water. While dana is always freely given, here are some things to consider:
- a. Your Preceptor will meet with you monthly, they will spend time choosing a dharma name, they will spend time doing calligraphy on your lineage papers and making handmade envelopes, they will do calligraphy on your rakusu, and they will plan & rehearse the ceremony in advance of the main rehearsal and ceremony. We estimate that teachers spend a total of 25 - 40 hours per student in preparation for jukai. This does not include time teaching the classes or helping with sewing. While there is no set amount for dana, you may want to consider a gift of \$500 to your preceptor, which could be spread out over the year.
  - b. While classes remain as "pay-what-you-can" please keep in mind the estimated value of classes. It's immeasurable, of course, but when asked, we use a guideline of \$20 per hour of class time, and \$150 per day of sesshin. Teachers are paid a percentage of the income received for each class. Some students also elect to make an extra donation to the teachers and/or helpers for classes.
  - c. Consider a gift to Clouds of \$100 to show your gratitude and to cover incidental expenses such as specialty paper for calligraphy.
  - d. Consider a gift to the people who help with the jukai ceremony.

Please talk to Sosan, Kyoku, Myo On, Toku or Myoshin for more information or if you have questions.

Note: Adjustments to the requirements can be made for life circumstances. The training may also be spread out over multiple years, for example, taking some of the jukai preparation classes in 2021 - 2022, and others in 2023 - 2024.