

SPRING HIGAN SERVICE

Koyasan Beikoku Betsuin of L.A. – Sunday, March 19th, 1:30 PM

Harbor City Koyasan Buddhist Church – Sunday, March 12th, 10:00 AM



Japanese Buddhists believe that life and death exist on two different sides, separated by a great river known as “San Zu No Kawa”. This belief has actually been held since antiquity. On the side of the living is called “Shigan” and other side where the deceased dwells is called “Higan”. “Shigan” and “Higan” are taken from “Tō-Higan” which means from this world of ignorance and suffering (Samsara) to the other shore of enlightenment and peace (Nirvana).

Higan services are held around the spring and autumn equinox. Those, who observe the belief, visit the temple for service to honor the spirit of the deceased; and then visit the cemetery to honor the physical remains of their loved ones. There is, in this way, the recognition and respect for the two aspects – the “spiritual” and “physical” of human beings.

Spring Higan is to show gratitude for all living things and Autumn Higan is to be thankful for our ancestors. Higan is a week of practice for all of us to change our daily life for the better.

We welcome you and your family to Higan service to pay homage to your deceased loved ones, to welcome in the season of spring and to remind ourselves the teachings of the Buddha by observing the six paramitas:

- *Giving, generosity, and charity*
- *Self-restraint, discipline, and personal integrity*
- *Patience, tolerance, endurance, and acceptance*
- *Effort and diligence*
- *Meditation, concentration, and mindfulness*
- *Wisdom, insight, understanding and tranquility*