

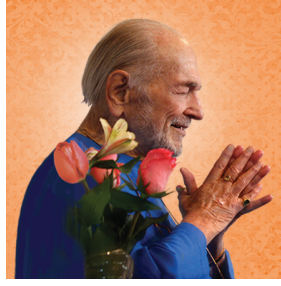
WELCOME TO ANANDA VILLAGE SUNDAY SERVICE



“The time for knowing God has come.”

—Paramhansa Yogananda





ORDER OF SERVICE

10:00 – 10:45 am	Vedic Fire Ceremony & Purification Ceremony
10:45 – 11:00 am	Devotional Chanting
11:00am – 12:30 pm	Sunday Service & The Festival of Light

VEDIC FIRE CEREMONY

A small fire will be lit at the altar; into this fire symbolic offerings will be made by the Lightbearers on behalf of the whole congregation. Accompanying these offerings will be the chanting of two ancient Sanskrit mantras, the Gayatri Mantra, for enlightenment, and the Mahamrityunjaya Mantra, for liberation. Each round of the mantra is repeated seven times. The words of the mantras are offered below. We will chant them to the accompaniment of a recording of the mantras sung by Swami Kriyananda, the founder of Ananda.

Gayatri Mantra

AUM, Bhur, Bhu-vah, Swah-ha
AUM, Tat Sa-vi-tur Va-re-ny-am
Bhar-go De-va-sya Dhee-ma-hi
Dhi-yo Yo Nah, Pra-cho-da-yat, AUM

Mahamrityunjaya Mantra

AUM, Tri-am-ba-kam Ya-ja-ma-he
Su-gan-dhim Push-ti Var-dha-nam,
Ur-va-ru-ka-me-va Bhan-dha-nan,
Mrit-yor Mok-shi-ya Mam-ri-tat, Swa-ha!





PURIFICATION CEREMONY

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

– *Matthew 5:8*

During this silent time of meditation and prayer, you are welcome to participate or not, as you choose, in this simple ceremony of personal purification.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE (OPTIONAL):

Write a purification request on a small slip of paper, provided for you at the back of the room. As you feel to do so, come forward and kneel on the pillow provided before the Lightbearer. Say these words: “I seek purification by the grace of God.” The Lightbearer will respond to you in this way: “The Master says, ‘Open your heart to me and I will enter and take charge of your life.’”

After a time of silent prayer, the Lightbearer, while touching you at the heart chakra, will inwardly ask to be a channel for the blessings of the Masters. At the end of the blessing, the Lightbearer will say these words: “By the grace of our Masters, you are free!”

Then go up to the altar and burn your written request in the bowl provided. Pray for the release of all obstacles that keep you from your highest spiritual potential. Remain in a silent meditative state throughout the rest of the ceremony; you may wish to offer a prayer for your fellow participants as they approach the altar.

DEVOTIONAL CHANTING

The words to the chants we sing together are available to you. Please ask one of our Ushers.





SUNDAY SERVICE

Opening (please stand as the Lightbearers enter)

The Lightbearer will say these words: “The voice of God calls us to awake in Him. How will He find us when He comes?”

The congregation responds: “Awake and ready!”

The Lightbearer will say these words: “And when He asks us to dedicate ourselves more perfectly, how will He find us?”

The congregation responds: “Awake and ready!”

Opening Prayer (repeated responsively)

Opening Music by the Choir or other Ananda Musicians

Devotional Chanting (please see the “Ananda Chanting Booklet” for words to the chants.)

Meditation (ten minutes of silent meditation)

Affirmation (from *Affirmations for Self-Healing*,
by Swami Kriyananda)

Scripture Reading (from *Rays of the One Light*,
by Swami Kriyananda)

Sermon

Offering and *Offertory Music*

The Festival of Light

We close our Sunday Service with a ceremony of celebration. In poetic, devotional, and musical forms, the Festival of Light contains the essence of the spiritual path we follow. The ceremony ends with an invitation to come up to the altar, if you choose to do so, to “Receive the Touch of Light.” In this way we are united and blessed by that same divine light offered by the Great Ones of all religions.

“Go Out with Joy!”





SONGS FOR THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Music and lyrics by Swami Kriyananda

The Thunder of AUM

AUM, AUM, AUM, AUM!

Out of the silence came the song of creation;

Out of the darkness came the light.

Out of the darkness, out of the silence

Thundered the Cosmic Sound, Amen!

Out of the darkness, out of the silence

Thundered the Cosmic Sound, AUM!

AUM, AUM, AUM, AUM!

Gone is our bondage with the dawn of new freedom;

Gone is delusion in the light!

"Gone is delusion, gone is your bondage!"

Thunders the Cosmic Sound, Amen!

"Gone is delusion, gone is your bondage!"

Thunders the Cosmic Sound, AUM!

You Remain Our Friend

(sing through twice)

Long we feared to face Your love,

Lest our emptiness it prove!

Now at last our hearts we give You,

Who remain our Friend.





Thy Light Within Us Shining

Thy light within us shining
Has shown where freedom lies:
From earthly walls confining
To soar in Spirit's skies!

How oft, like sheep, we've strayed apart!
Now, guided by Thy ray,
In inner freedom of the heart
Our night has turned to day!

Father, Mother, Friend, Our God (sing through twice)

Father, Mother, Friend, our God,
We Thy wonders all acclaim.
May our thoughts be only of Thee;
Train our hearts to sing Thy name.
All desires born of delusion
Here we lay, Lord, at Thy feet.
Thy one light brought by our great Masters,
Make us ever one with Thee.





AUM Christ Amen

(sing repeatedly during blessing)

AUM Christ Amen, AUM Christ AUM

AUM Christ Amen, AUM Christ AUM.

Sing Out With Joy!

(sing through twice)

Sing out, sing out with joy!

God's light has descended.

Sing out, sing out with joy!

All our nights have ended!

Light on every mountain,

Oh, light in every valley!

Light from all the masters;

We live in the Lord!

“Go Out with Joy!”





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