

## Help us build a place for prayer and contemplation, dedicated to the Eleven-faced bodhisattva Kannon



Height statue: 2.5 m  
Total height from ground level: 5.5 m.

The eleven-faced Kannon (Chinese: Guan Yin; Sanskrit: Avalokitesvara) is a bodhisattva with eleven faces. The number eleven corresponds to the eight cardinal directions, heaven and earth, and the element of temporality. With eyes of great compassion the bodhisattva continuously perceives all sentient beings throughout space and time.

To save sentient beings, the bodhisattva manifests a variety of expressions. The anterior faces show the bodhisattva's benevolence and compassion, while additional faces on the left and right are wrathful and white-fanged. A single face in the back is one of great laughter. In this way, the eleven-faced Kannon accords to a person's individual circumstances, transforms their hardships into ease, and steadily guides them to the attainment of awakening.

From ancient times, people have had great faith in this bodhisattva to ward off war, famine and disease; and for over 1200 years, from the Nara period up to the present, statues of the bodhisattva have been raised all over Japan.

Now in the year 2020, with the corona virus causing global disruption, people from all over the world who visit the Ryūunji temple – irrespective of nationality, religion, culture, and ethnicity – will naturally be of single purpose, and they should have the opportunity to pray at ease for inner peace and harmony among people. It is my fervent wish that the temple's "Bell of Peace" sounds day after day, and prayers ring ceaselessly, and that now more than ever we go forward in becoming a place for diligent practice of the precious bodhisattva path. Thus I aroused the aspiration to establish a structure dedicated to Kannon. The structure will also serve as a stupa for the perpetual commemoration of the departed.

I hope you will consider helping us. Your faith and generosity are vital to bringing this project to fruition. If you feel a connection and would like to support us by making a donation, it will be tremendously appreciated. With your gift, you create a precious buddha-affinity that will flow through centuries of future descendants. I am looking forward to welcoming you all on the auspicious day of the project's completion. At that time, let us pray together, not only for ourselves and our families, but also for world peace, and peace within all living beings.

Nohara Shinjō, 44<sup>th</sup> generation abbot of Ryūunji

The names of all contributors (without regard of the amount donated) will be recorded on a wooden panel inside the main temple hall. Those donating one hundred thousand yen or more can choose to have their names, the content of their prayer, and the name of the beneficiary inscribed on a stone memorial.

For inquiries please contact Ryūunji temple.

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