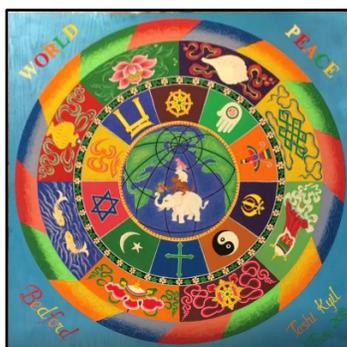


WORLD PEACE SAND MANDALA

2018 USA Tour and Presentation by Monks of the Labrang Tashikyil Monastery in Dehra Dun, India



Designed especially for western audiences to celebrate world peace, this mandala is not used for meditation in Buddhist monasteries. In 2007, Arjia Rinpoche, Abbot of the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center at Bloomington, Indiana, hosted the fifth visit by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. At the time, St. Paul's Catholic Center held an Interfaith Peace ceremony where persons of many faiths said prayers of peace in union with His Holiness.

To celebrate this event, Arjia Rinpoche composed a World Peace Sand Mandala. The monks created it for the St. Paul's ceremony. The Dalai Lama blessed the mandala and urged monks to continue to create it at Dharma centers and for other organizations and events throughout the USA.

The World Peace Sand Mandala consists of multiple images in each of three concentric circles:

- Center circle features the "Four Perfect Friends," a story revered by Tibetans and pointing to the harmony that can be attained by diverse groups.
- Middle circle shows the symbols of the world's great religions.
- Outer circle shows the Eight Auspicious Symbols of Tibetan Buddhism (right-coiled white conch, precious umbrella, victory banner, golden fish, vase of treasure, lotus flower, endless knot, and wheel).

Symbols of the World's Great Religions include . . .

❖ Buddhism	Dharma Wheel	Teachings of the Buddha
❖ Christianity	Cross	Salvation through the Sacrifice of Jesus
❖ Hinduism	Om Sound	Totality of the Energy of the Universe
❖ Islam	Crescent & Star	Muslim Community
❖ Jainism	Hand with a Wheel	Ahimsa (Non-violence) and Cessation of Samsara
❖ Judaism	Star of David	Connection between God, Torah, and Israel
❖ Native American	Quadrant	Four Corners of the Universe
❖ Shinto	Tori or Gate	Transition from the Profane to the Sacred
❖ Sikh	Scroll	Code of Conduct Given by the One Immortal Being
❖ Taoism	Yin & Yang	Opposites that Create the Whole

The creation of a mandala is said to create purification and healing. When finished, the monks say dedication prayers to free all sentient beings from suffering. The sands are then dispersed and poured into a body of water to purify the environment and spread a spirit of peace and harmony throughout the world.