



SING-ALONG WITH MOD SERIES #1: VESAK

Foreword

The full moon day of Vesak month – the holiest day in Buddhist calendar commemorates the birth, enlightenment and passing away of the historical Gautama Buddha. Songs related to Vesak depicts the joy of worshippers in acts of worship besides recalling the glorious events that took place during the aforementioned three important events. These events remind us of the impermanent and fleeting nature of life but at the same time encourage us to improve ourselves constantly. The Buddha lives for us that He shared the wonderful Teaching which ultimately leads us to final Liberation. We too can be a Buddha one day if we aspire and strive diligently.

This album's songs arrangement reflects the contemporary nature of the modern world without changing the joyous or sublime essences of the lyrics. We hope that you will find these songs inspirational and uplifting as we welcome this holy tri-sacred Vesak Day.

Songs

1. Hail glorious day
2. Holy day of Wesak
3. Wesak dawn
4. The Bodhi Day
5. Softly blew the breezes
6. Light of Asia
7. Lord Buddha found the truth
8. Thoughts
9. Wesak Day
10. Flower of Mankind
11. Day of glory
12. Welcome joyous Wesak
13. Lumbini

Lyrics

1. HAIL GLORIOUS DAY

A R Zorn/V Wee

Hail glorious day, when o'er the world
The light of Truth in splendor rose
For beings in illusion's night
The way of Wisdom to disclose

Lord Buddha, Thee our hearts acclaim
Thou art the Sun of Righteousness
In Thee is Truth in fullness shown
Man to enlighten and to bless

Thy doctrine is the radiant glow
Which evermore proceeds from Thee
And marks the Path that onward leads
To freedom and felicity

O may mankind, Thy light receive
From self and error turn aside
That all in peace and love may share
The joy benign of Wesak tide

Repeat verse 1

2. HOLY DAY OF WESAK

D Hunt/Hojo

Buddha Lord we offer on Thy birthday fair
Garlands of the brightest, blossoms choice and rare

Holy Day of Wesak, Day of Buddha's birth
When the sun of Wisdom shone upon the earth

Incense too we offer on this festal day
For the things we cherish all must pass away

Through this holy symbol we shall learn to see
Things of priceless value hid in transiency

And the deep gong sounding bids us leave the self
And in Buddha's Teaching find the truest wealth

Lights upon the altar show to us the way
From the realms of darkness to Nirvana's day

3. WESAK DAWN

S Hettiarachchi/V Wee

Wesak dawn has paced in softly
Tip-toed thro' the moonlit night
Breathed the flowers and incense smoking
Laughed thro' bars of purple light

Bids you now to waken gently
Lift your troubled eyes of sleep
Tend'ring thoughts of homage holy
'cross Samsara's Ocean deep

To the One who taught the Dhamma
Of the Noble Eightfold Way
To the Buddha, dearest sister
Lift your tender mind today!

Repeat verse 1

4. THE BODHI DAY

D Hunt/R R Bode

On this great day our Holy Prince of Peace
From sorrow's chain has found release
Self is no more, banished the clouds of night
Upon mankind hath shined the light

Chorus:

Rejoice ye people, sing the Buddha's praises
Who hath found Nirvana's bliss today
Follow His Pathway, dwell in love together
Show to the nations the Eightfold Way

O let us tell the story of His Love
The toils He bore to find the Way
The weary years He wandered in the night
Before he saw the Truth's bright ray

Chorus:

Rejoice ye people, sing the Buddha's praises
Who hath found Nirvana's bliss today
Follow His Pathway, dwell in love together
Show to the nations the Eightfold Way

He found the way to everlasting peace
Nirvana's state where sufferings cease
The gate lies open, all may walk therein
And freedom find from death and sin

Chorus:

Rejoice ye people, sing the Buddha's praises
Who hath found Nirvana's bliss today
Follow His Pathway, dwell in love together
Show to the nations the Eightfold Way

The Sun of Truth dispels the mists of night
And round us sheds its holy Light
No more shall powers of ignorance hold sway
At last hath dawned the Wesak Day

Chorus:

Rejoice ye people, sing the Buddha's praises
Who hath found Nirvana's bliss today
Follow His Pathway, dwell in love together
Show to the nations the Eightfold Way

5. SOFTLY BLEW THE BREEZES

P Carus/R R Bode

Softly blew the breezes
On that summer morn
In Lumbini's garden
Where the Lord was born

From the earth sprang flowers
Birds in warble sang
While through earth and heaven
Strains of music rang

Gods and men and angels
All for worship came
Glory to Lord Buddha
Glory to His name

Softly blew the breezes
On that summer morn
In Lumbini's garden
Where the Lord was born

6. THE LIGHT OF ASIA

✓ Wee/✓ Wee

In the land of the happy Sakyas
For good and joy to all the world of men
The wisdom-child, that precious jewel
Unmatched, unrivalled, was born in Lumbini

We rejoice, we rejoice,
Siddhartha Prince was born
We rejoice, we rejoice,
For the Truth's eternal sun

At twenty nine, He left His kingdom
His wife, His child, to seek for Truth's bright Light
He wandered lonely in plain and forest
To tear the blindfold of dark illusion night

We rejoice, we rejoice,
The trap of pain to free
We rejoice, we rejoice,
He rode in victory

Underneath the Tree of Wisdom
He sat Himself with folded hands and feet
With focused mind and perfect wisdom
The world's deliverance our Teacher had attained

We rejoice, we rejoice,
The house of life lay broken
We rejoice, we rejoice,
Our Lord emerged triumphant

Between two sala trees, in meditation
Submerged in calmness our Teacher passed away
"Compounded things are all so transient
Your own salvation with diligence you work"

These were words of our Teacher
His final words to us
The Dhamma and the Discipline) repeat
To guide us when He is gone)

7. LORD BUDDHA FOUND THE TRUTH

D Hunt/R R Bode

Lord Buddha found the Truth
That breaks the captive's chain
The Truth that gladdens hearts forlorn
And heals the sufferer's pain

Chorus:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!
The temple bell shall ring
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice! Be glad and sing

Lord Buddha found the Light
That scatters all our fears
And on the weary paths of night
It sheds a gladdening cheer

Chorus

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!
The temple bell shall ring
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice! Be glad and sing

Lord Buddha found the Way
The Holy Way of Peace
For all who tread the Eightfold Path
Shall find earth's sorrows cease

Chorus

Lord Buddha found true Life
Immortal and sublime
And those who win the fight with self
Shall find the life divine

Chorus

Lord Buddha found the Goal
Nirvana's state most blest
And those who trust Him as their guide
Shall find eternal rest

Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!
Our hearts with joy shall ring
Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice! Be glad and sing.

8. THOUGHTS

S Hettiarachchi/H C Tan

I fold my palms to worship Him
And meditate thro' love
I place the blossoms one by one
And lift my eyes above

** I see Samsara's mighty vast
And sorrow's yearning fate
But thro' the law the Dhamma's taught
I sense a pathway great

"Oh may that Noble Eightfold way
Be sensed by you and me
For on this Holy Wesak Day
'Tis my true gift to thee!"

** I see Samsara's mighty vast
And sorrow's yearning fate
But thro' the law the Dhamma's taught
I sense a pathway great

9. WESAK DAY

A R Zorn/A R Zorn

Let songs of praise and gladness
Resound o'er all the earth
This glorious day acclaiming
The day of Buddha's birth

Chorus:

O Holy Day of Wesak,
Thy coming we adore
And homage bring to Him, our Guide
Now and ever more

In fair Lumbini's garden
The royal Babe was born
The bringer of salvation
Unto a world forlorn

Chorus

Sweet flow'rs their incense offer
And birds their music bring
All nature renders homage
To Him, the new born King

Chorus

The weary world pervading
The joyous message sound
He comes, your gloom dispelling
Behold the rising sun!

Chorus

And gladly we His message
Of peace and love proclaim
Of freedom and salvation
In Buddha's Holy Name

Chorus

10. FLOWER OF MANKIND

S Hettiarchchi / V Wee

Rohini rippled its water
Tinged with the moonlit tide
Mountainous high Sumeru
Gazed on with wondering pride

Planets in their starry orbits
Stopped for a while in pace
Gods in their shaken heavens
Down to the earth they race

Birds in their flaming feathers
Beasts in their vest of gold
Fish on the water's surface
Make themselves dare be bold

Skies grey have lost their darkness
Silvered moon shines instead
Lotuses open in glory
Honouring Gautama great!

He's sundered life's big secret
He's measured life's big dawn
He knows the way and watchword
Flower of Mankind is born

11. DAY OF GLORY

Unknown/V Wee

Under the sacred Bo-Tree
Whilst good and ill warring He
For victory held the world in thrall
Sat He who left worldly joys
Earth shook and mighty forest
Trembled like slender reeds
Thunder pealed and monstrous form
Of fear and sin revealed

Chorus:

La la la, la la la, la la la,
la la la la la la la
La la la, la la la, la la la,
la la la la la la la

There came a blessed morning
The sun rose radiantly
He attained Enlightenment
A bliss denied to none
Around His seat the flowers sprang
Sweet music filled the air
And every being came with joy
To pray to the Lord Buddha there

Chorus:

(To bless us all)

12. WELCOME JOYOUS WESAK DAY

Sumangalo/Jiyu-Kenneth

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Joyfully we greet the coming
Of this blessed Wesak Day
Morn of our release from sorrow
Dawning of the Dhamma way!
How our hearts lift up with gladness
Unto Truth's Infinite Light
As we contemplate the freedom
In its liberating might

Chorus:

Morn of light to banish darkness
Morn of never ending day
Day of triumph o'er illusion
Welcome joyous Wesak Day

Praises to our matchless Teacher
Leader, Master, Guide and Friend
Following His peerless victory
Our own freedom we may win
Breaking cruel chains of ignorance
Banishing the night of fear
Till at last, in wordless glory
To Nirvana all draw near

Chorus

To our Lord we offer all that
Mind and hand and heart procure
Gladly would we share with others
Liberating knowledge sure
Wesak! Wesak! Blessed Wesak!
On this day Truth's sun arose
Light of Hope that never falters
Till all transiency shall close

Chorus

13. LUMBINI

S Hettiarachchi/H C Tan

Today as basketful of sal
We take across this drum beats din
As each sal bloom is placed upon
His altar, let us think of Him

Chorus: On Wesak Day so long ago
 The sal tree burst its flow'ry shoots
 Queen Maya's love for flow'ry did grow
 She leant against its trunk and roots

And lo! The flow'r decked branches wove
A canopy for Maya Queen
And pangless brought she forth her boy
Amidst Lumbini's burnished green

Chorus: On Wesak Day so long ago
 The sal tree burst its flow'ry shoots
 Queen Maya's love for flow'ry did grow
 She leant against its trunk and roots

About Messengers of Dharma

Messengers of Dharma (MOD) was formed in November 2004 and has to date produced 6 CDs i.e. the album Aspiration (May 2005), singles Jayamangala Gatha (May 2007), singles The Story of Dona (December 2007), Sing-Along Series 1 – Vesak (May 2010), Sing-Along Series 2 – Praise (February 2011) and Sing-Along Series 3 – Matrimony (May 2011). They also wrote and recorded the theme song Walking the Buddha's Path (June 2008) for a local Buddhist Organisation. The group performs regularly in many Buddhist events to reach out to the public and share the wonderful teachings of the Buddha. Besides Buddhist songs, they also perform local folk songs and oldies in private events.

MOD is now working on a series of CDs based on the songs found in the Buddhist Hymn Book compiled by Datuk Dr. Victor Wee. The songs in each CD are grouped according to various themes and are intended to act as guide and lead in religious worship and fellowship sessions or events such as weddings and funerals. Besides the singing guide, the minus-one copies of these songs are appended as well. This series of low budget recorded CDs will be distributed free of charge.

For more information and pictures on Messengers of Dharma's previous and on-coming outreach events, please check us out in facebook id: [mod.messengersofdharma](https://www.facebook.com/mod.messengersofdharma) or email us at messengers_od@yahoo.com.