

Shinto rituals are conducted on a daily basis at Meiji Jingu. Known as *onikekusai*, their start is announced with *taiko* drumming. *Asamike*, or morning offering, is held at 8 a.m., and *yumike*, the afternoon offering, at 2 p.m. at the main shrine hall. The rituals last around ten minutes each. Food offerings are made to the *kami* during these rituals, and the priests pray for world peace and the prosperity and happiness of all.

The drum has a long history of use within Shinto. It is thought that the *taiko* has been used in religious ceremonies since ancient times, when the reverberation of the drums would feel like the presence of the *kami*. The sound of the drumming was also thought to purify and sanctify the ritual. The *taiko* drums are still used to indicate the beginning and end of rituals, and to call upon the *kami*.