

OPENING WORDS

Kate Phillips

November, 26, 2017

Good morning! My name is Kate Phillips, and I welcome you to All Souls today. I've been happily attending All Souls for over eight years, though I have to admit, when I accepted Seble's invitation to give Opening Words earlier this fall, my first thought was, "I guess this means I have to start coming to Sunday service again..." It's been a while.

I am a doer. I have built a home and community at All Souls primarily on my feet. Whether serving at a Bicentennial potluck or ushering guests into a Musica Viva concert or playing hostess at Young Adults parties, I feel most comfortable engaged in active service. As these and other activities amass over the course of a week, taking a "break" to sit for an hour-long service can seem like the least productive way to spend my time and even serve this All Souls community. But then I come and the right reading hits my ears at the right moment. A particular arrangement from Alejandro the choir penetrates my to-do list fog and moves me to tears. Light or a sound wafting in through a window reminds me of the awesome uniqueness of NYC. As I continue to care for my communities within and beyond All Souls, I need to remember to engage in self-care, too: giving myself permission to simply sit for an hour-long service and cheerfully, calmly be. Thank you for joining me here today to allow All Souls to take care of us as lovingly as we take care of All Souls.

Now please join me in the Bond of Union printed in your Order of Service.