

OPENING WORDS  
Elizabeth Hutchinson  
Sunday, May 20, 2018

Good morning and welcome to All Souls. My name is Elizabeth Hutchinson. I started coming to services here in at the beginning of the Iraq War, seeking insight into how to remain soulful in a world where peace seemed elusive. I came to All Souls to get something from it--comfort, community, uplifting words and music, some desperately-needed childcare during long weekends as a single mother.

As my spirituality deepened, I began to realize that it involved not only comfort but also responsibility to take action to move us toward a more compassionate and just society. In addition to deepening the justice-oriented focus of my job and community work, I began volunteering at All Souls, a practice that landed me on the Board of Trustees. (Be careful of what journeys that first small step might commit you to!)

I know that many of you understand the need for all of us to support All Souls if we want it to keep doing what it does for us and our larger communities. I know this because I see you here each week teaching our youth, washing dishes at Monday Night Hospitality, sharing each others' joys and sorrows and discussing the state of the world.

Giving time feels good and connects us with each other and the best part of ourselves. Giving money can feel less good, and yet, of course, it is also essential. Donations from congregants simply ARE the way the church pays the salaries of its employees, keeps our programs going, and maintains the spaces in which they take place. As we move toward the end of the fiscal year, the Board hopes you will considering doing what each of us has done, and make an additional generous contribution to Annual Giving. We will be staffing a table at coffee hour today to encourage you, to answer questions, and offer our thanks.

And now I invite you to rise as you are willing and able to join in our Bond of Union.