

Opening Words
Li Yu, President, Board of Trustees
Welcome-Back Sunday 2017
Sunday, September 10, 2017

Good morning, and welcome to All Souls. My name is Li Yu; and I have been a member here since 2004.

Today is the start of the 199th year at All Souls; and this is an exciting time to be a part of the religious community. A few months ago, this community called the Rev. Audette Fulbright to join Galen in the chancel as our associate minister. Second, between now and December, we will be gearing up to finish a capital campaign that will help us take care of this beloved space. Finally, a year from now, we will be celebrating the 200th anniversary for All Souls.

Of course, these exciting developments at All Souls cannot, and should, not blind us to challenges in the world. Right now, a potentially devastating storm is making its way through Florida. And, since January, current events have raised question about how well our country will honor the ideal of equality and care for our collective future.

In moments like these, it is especially important for us to have a space like this each Sunday and a community like All Souls. I am reminded of a simple blessing I heard when I first started coming to All Souls in 2003. That seems like a lifetime ago. Yet, back then, it also felt like a time of peril. The blessing goes like:

We give thanks for being.
We give thanks for being here.
And, finally, We give thanks for being here, together.

Now, if you are willing and able, I invite you to stand and join me in repeating our bond of union:

***In the freedom of the truth
And in the spirit of love,
We unite for the worship of God
And the service of all.***