

Opening Words
Given by Elizabeth Wahab
March 26, 2017
All Souls Unitarian Church, New York City

Good morning! And welcome to All Souls. My name is Elizabeth Wahab, and I serve as the Treasurer of this church. I have been a member of All Souls since 2005 when, finding myself longing for a spiritual community to enrich my go-go banker life, I did what so many of us do today to find answers. I went to the Internet. I took a quiz on religious compatibility and found myself an off-the-chart Unitarian. Curiosity piqued, I dragged my husband to All Souls the next weekend. Here, in this beautiful sanctuary, with its thought-provoking sermons and rapturous music, I immediately knew I'd found the home I'd been looking for. I relished the emphasis on "deeds, not creeds." And that was before I discovered the intellectual delights of Adult Education, with topics ranging from Emily Dickinson to Islam, and the quality of Religious Education for my children. That was before that day several years ago when my nine year-old son walked out of baseball practice and onto the crowded streets of East Harlem, looked around and echoed the words he had heard at church, "We are all one."

We are all one. That is why I and my family are here at All Souls, to remind ourselves of a lesson that is needed so desperately in these times, and to find opportunities to act on this message. We are all one, and we are so grateful to be part of the All Souls community.

And now, please join me in reciting the Bond of Union, which can be found printed in your program:

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