

IT MATTERS WHAT WE BELIEVE

OPENING WORDS & CHALICE LIGHTING:

Some beliefs are like walled gardens. They encourage exclusiveness, and the feeling of being especially privileged.

Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies.

Some beliefs are like shadows, clouding children's days with fears and unknown calamities.

Other beliefs are like sunshine, blessing children with the warmth of happiness.

Some beliefs are divisive, separating the saved from the unsaved, friends from enemies.

Other beliefs are bonds in a world community, where sincere differences beautify the pattern.

Some beliefs are like blinders, shutting off the power to choose one's own direction.

Other beliefs are like gateways opening wide vistas for exploration.

Some beliefs weaken a person's self-hood. They blight the growth of resourcefulness.

Other beliefs nurture self-confidence and enrich the feeling of personal worth.

Some beliefs are rigid, like the body of death, impotent in a changing world.

Other beliefs are pliable, like the young sapling, ever growing with the upward thrust of life.

Reading #657 from Singing the Living Tradition

~Sophia Lyon Fahs

PURPOSE: We come together to build connections and to support each other on our spiritual journey.

CHECK IN: What you share may be about your physical or spiritual health, cares or concerns for loved ones, issues you are facing. What are you leaving behind to be here today?

READING OF GROUP COVENANT

FOCUS: It Matters What We Believe

Each person in the group speaks uninterrupted; if time remains, general response and conversation are welcome.

During the Exploring Membership series at All Souls, participants are asked to reflect on the following two statements:

I have always believed

I used to believe.....but now I believe.....

How would you fill in these blanks? What beliefs have been constant for you? How have your beliefs changed? Why does it matter? You may choose to reflect on either statement or both statements.

CONFIDENTIALITY CHECK: Is there anything that you shared here today that you would like held confidential? Otherwise, this is a reminder that we treat each other's sharing with kindness and respect.

CHECK OUT

CLOSING WORDS: Reading #700 from Singing the Living Tradition ~Robert Mabry Doss

For all who see God, may God go with you. For all who embrace life, may life return your affection.
For all who seek a right path, may a way be found.....And the courage to take it, step by step.