

Stand by me

This service celebrates wisdom and experience.

It's a call to support our elders in their time of need and loneliness.

P: Do not rebuke an older man, but appeal to him as if he were you father. Treat the younger men as your brothers, the older women as mothers and the younger women as sisters with all purity. 1st Timothy 5:1-2

Only a shameful , disgraceful person would ill-treat his father or turn his mother away from his home Prov 19:26

Dear Lord help us to be mindful that, with your grace, we will all one day be old. Let us use our energies while they last in spreading your love and kindness around, and stand by those who are old and infirm.

Opening Hymn

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life,
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

*Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life,
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.*

Christ, the blessèd One, gives to all wonderful words of life;
Sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven.

Sweetly echo the Gospel call, wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify us forever. *Words & Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1874*

Kauma

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy

P. Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God

C. Holy art thou, Almighty God

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord ; the Messiah : who was crucified for us have mercy on us

P. O Lord , have mercy on us.

C. O Lord , have mercy on us and bless us .

P. O Lord , accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us
C. Glory be to you , O God.

P. Glory be to you O Creator

C. Glory be to you , O King the Messiah ;who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us O Lord.
(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors .
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory ,
Forever. Amen.

(Cong to be seated)

The first and second lesson will be read

1st Lesson Joshua 23:1-6 2nd Lesson 1st Timothy 5:1-10

Meditation

**L: Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life.
-Proverbs 16:31**

Time always marches on - and that's not a bad thing.

As I grow older, I try not to repeat the mistakes of my youth. Living longer means that I have the opportunity to also grow wiser. There are things I know now, that I did not know before. Not only is my relationship with the Lord closer but I've also had the benefit of my life experiences.

Jesus said, "I make all things new!" I don't want to go back in time. I'm swaggering forward into a tomorrow bursting with possibilities. Go back in time, oh no! There were problems that I had while growing up that are heavier than I could carry now, I've just forgotten how weighty they were at the time. The trip from the womb to job or college has many stumbling, bumbling, painful steps. Each step along life's path presents us with pain. Yet walking that path with Jesus changes everything. He brings the fresh breeze of spring even to old bones wearing wrinkled skin.

We can allow faith to take us by one arm and hope by the other as we walk, perhaps a little less briskly than before, down this pilgrim path.

And I know that the walk with Jesus never ends at a dead-end cliff. His cross bridges eternity and He has promised a place prepared for those who walk with Him. The very future that some of us lament and pine over will one day be filled with no thorns, only blossoms, and a whole lot of family and friends waiting to share our smiles and endless joy. And it's all because of Jesus. The most profound theology can never go deeper than these words, "Jesus loves me, this I know...."

In the meantime, the people of God—the church—can do a wonderful thing for those in their midst who are of advanced years. It can counter today's tendency to diminish and devalue the aged. I think of this when I read one of my favorite chapters in the Old Testament -Leviticus 19. It sets forth a summary of how God's chosen people were to live out his holiness in community, and one verse says, "Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly, and revere your God. I am the Lord" ([Lev. 19:32](#)).

Hymn

Jesus loves me! this I know,

For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
they are weak but He is strong.

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

I love Jesus, does he know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love him every day.

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow.
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in him.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in his I'll go.
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

A Child's Prayer for Grandparents

L: Dear God, please bless my grandparents.
Thank you for the life they gave my parents
and for the life they give to me.

For the ways they helped me and made me strong, I give thanks.
For the ways they love me no matter what, I rejoice.
For the ways they have paved the road
that leads me here, I am grateful.

Let them grow in wisdom and joy in life.
Let them find peace and rest from their work.
Let them be healed of every sickness and pain.
And let them see with their own eyes
the glory of your Son, Jesus,
in the love of their children and grandchildren.

Bless them always until they come to rest in you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Father n son video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RibGUOLiaPI>

(cong to stand)

Prayer of Confession

L: The Forgotten Mother

A gray old woman sits all alone
Unloved, uncherished and unknown.
Sitting beside her broken door.
Dreaming of days past long ago,
When children played about her knee
Filling the air with childish glee,
Tended by her with loving care.
Knowing the blessing of a Mother's prayer.
But now they have gone, each to his life
A girl to her husband, a boy to his wife,
Forgetful are they of her who sits here
Silently wiping a tricking tear,
For striving for things in a life so brief
Blind their poor eyes to a dear Mother's grief.
But does she upbraid them in word or in mind.
Nor does their neglect to her seem unkind.
She'll forgive and forget all unkindness they've shown
This poor old mother who sits alone.
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L: Aging is a natural process of life. It begins the moment we are born. Strangely enough, most of us live under the illusion that we and our loved ones will never become old. When old age arrives, we are often unprepared. The natural order becomes reversed. The young help to care for the old. Those who need to be taken care of for the first time have a hard time accepting that they need help. This condition is a product of our culture that does everything it can to conceal the loss of youth. Confronting this reality is the beginning of a healthy relationship to life, aging and death.

“. We thank you Lord for the many favors, benefits and opportunities bestowed on us. May you continue to shower on us your graces and blessings of good health that we may be able to conserve our strength and energy.

"We are however getting weaker and slower now and it takes a while to get going. Grant us, Lord, your merciful love and compassion that we may be free from worries, ailments, dangers and financial problems. May our life be replete with joy and happiness, comforts and ease, also with a sound heart, mind and body, emotionally and spiritually.

"We pray that our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, relatives and friends, may understand our predicament, anxieties, weaknesses and shortcomings, and may they thereby afford us tender loving care and a cheerful atmosphere to brighten our hopes and dreams to lengthen our temporal lease in life.

Hymn

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days, and God of Love;
Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and Heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred Name forever blessed.

The God of Abraham praise, at Whose supreme command
From earth I rise—and seek the joys at His right hand;
I all on earth forsake, its wisdom, fame, and power;
And Him my only Portion make, my Shield and Tower.

He by Himself has sworn; I on His oath depend,
I shall, on eagle wings upborne, to Heav'n ascend.
I shall behold His face; I shall His power adore,
And sing the wonders of His grace forevermore.

The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high;
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost," they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham's God, and mine! (I join the heav'nly lays,)
All might and majesty are Thine, and endless praise.

Words: From *The Yigdal* of Daniel ben Judah, a Jewish judge in Rome, 1400, paraphrased by [Thomas Oliv-ers](#), 1765;

(Cong. to be seated)

Prayer of thanksgiving

The River of life

One. Just one at a time
Drip by drip begins this song
First one drop and then the other
Searching for its feet to stumble along

Meandering across unknown ground
Shaky, crawling, eating up earth
Falling, bouncing, rolling over
Joys untold from a stream at birth

Dashing its way across the land
Learning, feeling, seeking, tasting
Little pearls of wisdom and vice
Reflected through the dark and lighting

Bouncing across rocks unafraid

Challenging every steep and climb,
Dying with every fall to live again
Riding with the flow sublime

Threading its way on lower plains
Youth has shifted to slower gear
Responsibility cloaked in maturity
Drifting cautiously, slow, unsecure

Dying into the sea of the world
Becoming one with earth and heaven
No sacrifice, regrets, loss and tears.
For in giving of oneself there is no end.

L:Prayer for Elders

God of Abraham and Sarah,
grandfather and grandmother in the faith
God of all generations:
We thank you today for those who are grandparents and elders.
We especially thank you for those who are grandparents to us —
those who are grandparents by blood relationships, and
those unrelated but older than we
who generously share their love and wisdom,
their time and traditions
so that we have roots, stories, and hope.
We bless you for the gift of grandparents,
and we ask your blessing on them,
that their days may be filled
with delight in their grandchildren.
May their giving and grace toward younger generations
bring fulfillment to them
and may they be a blessing
to all they love and call children,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daniel Benedict and Taylor Burton-Edwards compiled a page for Grandparents' Day. The prayers are copyright © 2003, 2006 The General Board of Discipleship.

Stand by Me - Song video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us-TVg40ExM&feature=channel>

No matter who you are
No matter where you go in life
You're going to need somebody to stand by you.
No Matter how much money you got
Or the friends you got
You're going to need somebody to stand by you.

(cong to stand)

Intercessory prayer

Psalm 71

- L: In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;
turn your ear to me and save me.
- C: Be my rock of refuge,
to which I can always go;
give the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
- L: Deliver me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of evil and cruel men.
- C: For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD,
my confidence since my youth.
- L: From birth I have relied on you;
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.
I will ever praise you.
- C: I have become like a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.
- L: My mouth is filled with your praise,
declaring your splendor all day long.
- C: Do not cast me away when I am old;
do not forsake me when my strength is gone.
- L: I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, O Sovereign LORD;
I will proclaim your righteousness, yours alone.
- C: Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.
- L: Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, O God,
till I declare your power to the next generation,
your might to all who are to come.
- C: Your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God,
you who have done great things.
Who, O God, is like you?
- L: Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter,
you will restore my life again;
from the depths of the earth
you will again bring me up.
- C: You will increase my honor
and comfort me once again.

Gospel Reading

P: Peace be with you all

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by

C: Blessed is he that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May his blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So we believe and affirm

(After reading the Gospel the priest says 'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you , Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles.

We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

Felicitation of Senior Citizens

Birthday & Wedding Anniversary

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Words: [Augustus M. Toplady](#), 1776. *Music:* Toplady, [Thomas Hastings](#), 1830

Offertory Hymn

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be. *Words: [George Matheson](#) 1882.*

Message

Closing Prayer

L: A Prayer for the Elderly

My God and my Father, from my experience of life,
I know you are a loving Father
who cares for your children, your sons and daughters,
in a loving way.
I have turned to you in good times and in bad,
and you have always been there
to enfold me in your loving embrace.
I now turn to you, my loving Father
as I grow old.
You are the fountain of all wisdom,
and therefore, you know my needs
before I ask and you understand my
ignorance in even asking.
I find that I am beset with the weaknesses of age.
And so I turn again to you
and ask that in your loving care
you have compassion on my weaknesses,
and grant me those things,
which in my unworthiness and blindness,
I dare not and cannot ask for.
My God, and most especially my Father,
I ask this of you
through the worthiness of your Son
and my Brother and Lord

Benediction

P: God, help us not to forget the elderly. Do not let us be mindless and careless in ignoring the gifts and the needs of those who are older than us. Show us how to make a difference in the lives of the lonely and suffering senior citizens in our community.

May your abundant blessing and comfort be with us especially those who are old, lonely and suffering and may the Lord Almighty grant unto us rest and peace. Amen.

Doxology & Kiss of Peace

Hymn

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide; O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, oh! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed, all my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want, more than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name, I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art, freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart; rise to all eternity. *Words: Charles Wesley, 1740*

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