

Worship Service: No Matter Our Age

Rev. Denise Shannon, POAMN moderator, Thornton, Colorado

This service is designed to celebrate and honor the spiritual journey of older adults, acknowledging their continued contribution to the life of the church. It integrates themes of gratitude, wisdom, and the promise of God's faithfulness across all ages.

Call to Worship

Leader:

We gather today to worship the Lord, the Creator of all ages,

People:

The One who walks with us through every stage of life, and sustains us with His grace and mercy.

Leader:

As we reflect on the years You have given,

People:

We honor the wisdom of those who have walked this journey longer than us.

Leader:

In Your presence, we find peace and joy.

People:

Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth and forevermore. Amen.

Opening Prayer

O God, we come before You today with hearts full of gratitude.

We thank You for the gift of life, for the years You have granted to us,

And for the faithful ones who have paved the way for us.

May Your Spirit dwell richly among us as we worship You,

Especially remembering the wisdom, strength and faithfulness of our older brothers and sisters in Christ.

Bless our time together, that we may grow in faith, hope, and love.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Call to Confession

The psalmist tells us, "The Lord is near to all who call on Him, To all who call on Him in truth."

In the quiet of this moment, we acknowledge that we are in need of God's mercy, no matter our age, for we all fall short of His glory.

Let us now confess our sins to our gracious and forgiving God.

Prayer of Confession

in unison

Holy and loving God, we confess that we have not always honored You in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves, and we have sometimes neglected the wisdom of those who have walked with You longer than we have. Forgive us, Lord.

Grant us Your grace to live humbly, with gratitude for every season of life, and to care for one another as You have cared for us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear these words of assurance from the book of Isaiah:

“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you.

I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

In Christ, we are forgiven and embraced by a love that never fades,

No matter our age. Thanks be to God!

Suggested Scripture Readings

Old Testament:

Psalm 92:12-15

“The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,

They will grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

Planted in the house of the Lord,

They will flourish in the courts of our God.

They will still bear fruit in old age,

They will stay fresh and green, Proclaiming, ‘The Lord is upright;

He is my Rock,

and there is no wickedness in Him.”

New Testament:

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

“Therefore we do not lose heart.

Though outwardly we are wasting away,

Yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory

That far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen,

But on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary,

But what is unseen is eternal.”

Response of Faith (Apostles’ Creed)

Leader:

Let us declare together our faith in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

Worship Service (continued)

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was
buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of
the Father,
and He will come to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Call for the Offering

We give thanks to God for the
abundant gifts He has given us,
including the wisdom, grace,
and faith of those who have
gone before us.

As we offer our gifts today, we
honor the contributions of older
adults, who continue to serve
the Lord and bless His church

with their faithfulness.

Let us give with joy and
gratitude.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank You
for the blessings You have
poured out on us.

We offer these gifts to You, that
they might be used for Your
glory

And the furthering of Your
kingdom.

May we, like the older saints
who have gone before us,

Live lives of service, wisdom,
and love.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Benediction

May the grace of God, who is
the giver of wisdom and love,
rest upon each of us today.

We give thanks for the older
adults in our midst—those
who have walked the journey
of faith, who have nurtured the
seeds of hope, love, and courage
in our community, and whose
lives reflect the richness of
God's steadfast faithfulness.

Go in peace, carrying the legacy
of those who have gone before,
and may you always feel the
embrace of God's love, which
never grows old, but continues
to renew and sustain us.

Amen.

Rev. Denise Shannon is an ordained pastor in the PCUSA and lives in Thornton, Colorado. Denise's passion for older adults began over 25 years ago when she worked as an RN, mostly in hospice care. Now, as a pastor, spiritual director, and hospice chaplain, she feels blessed to hear the incredibly rich stories and life experiences of the older adult population and loves using people's creativity to facilitate their spiritual growth. Denise also is serving as POAMN's moderator.

For additional worship services ideas, visit

- poamn.org/older-adult-month
- pcusa.org/resource/older-adult-sunday-worship-resources-journey-life
- pcusa.org/resource/older-adult-sunday-worship-liturgy-and-celebration-ideas



Hymn Suggestions

These hymns from Glory to God are well-suited for an Older Adult Worship Service, reflecting themes of God's faithfulness, gratitude, guidance, and the wisdom that comes with the passage of time. They provide both a sense of celebration and reflection, encouraging older adults to embrace their ongoing journey with Christ.

Hymn	Theme	Why It Fits
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Hymn #39)	God's faithfulness through all seasons of life.	A powerful reminder that God's faithfulness endures no matter the age or circumstance. It speaks to the journey of older adults who have experienced God's care and provision.
"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God" (Hymn #730)	Honoring the faithful, including older adults who have served God and the church.	Celebrates the saints in all their forms, including those who have walked with God for many years, making it perfect for honoring older adults.
"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (Hymn #210)	God's help and protection across the ages.	A timeless hymn that speaks to the eternal God who has sustained His people from generation to generation, making it an excellent choice for older adults.
"Be Thou My Vision" (Hymn #450)	A prayer for guidance and wisdom throughout all of life.	Emphasizes God's guidance, which is particularly meaningful for older adults who may reflect on the many years of God's leading in their lives.
"How Firm a Foundation" (Hymn #463)	The firm foundation of God's Word and promises.	Reassures us of God's promises, a powerful message for older adults who have lived through various seasons and experienced God's faithfulness.
"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (Hymn #182)	Comfort and invitation to rest in Jesus.	Offers comfort and assurance, especially meaningful to those in their later years who may be looking for peace and renewal in Christ.