

## **RECOGNITION OF OLDER ADULTS and a PRAYER**

*Invite people age 50 and older to stand as able, or to raise their hand*

*To be read by pastor, board chairperson, or worship leader:*

In countless ways, our church has been and is being made more Christ-like by the talents, wisdom, and resources of persons 50 years and older. During Older Adult month, we extend to each of you our gratitude for all you have contributed in the past, all you give in the present, and all you will embody and teach us in the future. Let us pray together...

### *Unison Prayer*

God of all seasons of time,

We are humbly and boldly grateful for the gift of life.

We ask your gentle and vigorous blessing upon our older adults this morning.

May they know they are held and summoned by your love.

May they feel empowered by the knowledge that their lives are vital to the future of our world.

May they teach us to live fully, passionately, and gracefully in companion with the limitations of mortal life.

May they lead us to illuminating understanding of what it means to “become a new creature in Christ” with each passing year.

God of our life, we ask for your blessings and give our trust to you. Amen

*Adapted from 2008 Older Adult Month*



## **A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR OLDER ADULTS**

*To be prayed by the pastor, worship leader, or in unison by the congregation.*

God of all the seasons of life, we thank you for the older adults who live among us, revealing to us the seasons of age and experience, reminding us to enjoy each day as your gift, and offering us perspective, courage, peace, and a vision of what it means to age with enthusiasm, purpose, and grace.

We recognize today that each of these dear sisters and brothers is a vital part of this family of faith, and that too seldom do we tell them of our gratitude. So we offer to them and to you our confession of that lapse and the loss we thus have sustained.

Now as we anticipate your grace, we also anticipate the grace of our ongoing journey with them. May we share with them our strength and eagerness and vision. May we learn from them dreams and wisdom and bravery. May we delight in each other. May we tell one another our own stories as they fit together into the story of your purposes and your kingdom on earth and in heaven.

May we simply hold hands with one another, creating ties that will bind us into the great communion of saints who have been, who are, and who are yet to be! Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer by Sonja Griffith*