

## Grandparents' Day Service

Grandparents' Day is celebrated around the world at different times of the year. In the UK, many Anglican churches often celebrate Grandparents' Day on the first Sunday of October since Age Concern (now Age UK) introduced National Grandparents Day in October 2008. In the Roman Catholic church, Grandparents' Day is celebrated on the Sunday closest to the feast day of St Joachim and St Anne, the parents of Mary (26 July). Whenever you choose to celebrate grandparents, we hope that this service outline will help you.

This service outline provides a structure for a Grandparents' Day celebration, incorporating elements of worship, reflection, and recognition. Please feel free to amend any of the elements so that the service suits your setting.

### Welcome and Introduction

**Leader:** Welcome to our Grandparents' Day celebration. Today, we gather to give thanks and to honour the significant role that grandparents play in the lives of families and communities. Their love, faith and commitment have shaped generations, and we come together to acknowledge their contributions to strengthening family life and community. Let us open our service with a word of prayer.

### Opening Prayer

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of grandparents. They are a precious blessing in family life, offering love, wisdom, and the gift of faith. As we gather here today to celebrate them, we ask that You bless this service, fill our hearts with gratitude, and inspire us to honour and cherish the grandparents in our midst. May this time of worship reflect the deep love and respect we have for grandparents and may it strengthen our bonds with one another. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

### Hymn: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

### Scripture Reading

**Reader:** Our first scripture reading is from Proverbs 16:31: "Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life."

This verse reminds us of the wisdom and honour that comes with age, and we celebrate the crown of glory that grandparents represent in the lives of families.

### Second Scripture Reading:

**Reader:** Our second reading is from Psalm 145:4-5: "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendour of your majesty - and I will meditate on your wonderful works."

This passage reflects how grandparents pass on the legacy of faith and the wonders of God's works to the next generation.

### **Suggested Sermon: "The Legacy of Faith and Love"**

**Leader:** Today, as we celebrate Grandparents' Day, we recognise the invaluable role that grandparents play in shaping family life and faith. Grandparents are often the carriers of family traditions, the keepers of stories, and the gentle guides who offer wisdom from years of experience.

In the Bible, we see numerous examples of the importance of passing down faith and values through generations. One such example is found in Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

This passage emphasises the role of teaching and sharing faith continuously throughout daily life. Grandparents often play a crucial part in this process, imparting lessons of love, faith, and moral integrity.

Consider the story of Timothy in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Timothy 1:5: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

Timothy's faith was nurtured by his grandmother and mother, demonstrating how the influence of grandparents can profoundly impact future generations.

Grandparents often have the privilege of seeing their children and grandchildren grow in faith. Their prayers, stories, and examples shape our understanding of God's love and faithfulness. They are living testaments to God's enduring grace, embodying a legacy of faith that strengthens and inspires us.

Today, let us honour the grandparents among us by reflecting on their contributions to the lives of their families and communities. Let us appreciate the lessons they have taught, the sacrifices they have made, and the love they have shared. As we celebrate them, may we also commit to carrying forward their legacy by praying for families everywhere.

Of course, we are only human and as we celebrate Grandparents' Day, it's important to remember that, as human beings, we are not perfect. We make mistakes and fall short. We read in 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness".

Let us take a moment to confess our sins and seek God's forgiveness, knowing that He is just and merciful.

### **Pause for reflection**

By God's grace and mercy, our sins are forgiven. We embrace His peace and live with joy and renewed spirit. Amen.

### **Hymn: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"**

### **Special Recognition**

**Leader:** At this time, we would like to take a moment to honour the grandparents among us. We have a special presentation to celebrate their dedication and love. If you are a grandparent, please stand as we recognise you.

(Grandparents stand as they are given a candle in recognition and thanks.)

**Leader:** We are deeply grateful for each of you. Your presence, wisdom, and love are like a guiding light. May God bless you abundantly and continue to illuminate your path. May you continue to shine as a light for Christ in your family and your community.

### **Prayers of Intercession**

**Leader:** Let us now offer our prayers of intercession, lifting our needs and the needs of others before the Lord.

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the grandparents among us. We thank You for their unwavering love, their wisdom, and their faith. We ask that You continue to bless them with good health and joy. Surround them with Your peace and comfort.

We also lift those who are unable to be with us today, especially those who are ill or in need of Your special care. Lord, bring healing and strength to them.

We pray for families that are separated by distance or circumstance. May Your presence bridge the gap and bring comfort and connection.

We pray for families separated by division and discord. May your presence heal the wounds and restore relationships. Bring reconciliation where there is conflict and unite hearts with Your peace and understanding. Let Your love bridge the divides and foster true harmony.

We pray for all those who are grieving the loss of a grandparent, we ask for Your solace and support. May Your peace fill their hearts and remind them of the eternal promise of reunion in Your presence.

We pray for the younger generations, that they may know the faith of their grandparents as their own.

In all these things, we trust in Your unfailing love and grace. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"**

#### **Benediction**

**Leader:** As we conclude our gathering, let us go forth with a spirit of gratitude and honour for the grandparents in our communities.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May He grant you peace and fill your hearts with joy. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Thank you all for joining us today. We invite you to fellowship and share in refreshments following the service. Let us continue to celebrate and honour the grandparents among us today.