

## 2019 Resources for Worship

*The following liturgical pieces are for your use in worship for the occasion of celebrating the opportunity of aging and the life of faith.*

### Invocation/Prayer of Invitation:

LEADER Come all who are created in the image of God, young and older alike!

PEOPLE **We come to worship the One who is before time and beyond time.**

LEADER Bring the experience of all your days before the One whose love is constant through life.

PEOPLE **We present our lives in gratitude and awe for the breath that courses through us.**

LEADER Gather in the presence of love that you might know love more fully.

PEOPLE **We focus our breath, our thoughts, our cares to witness the sacred in this place.**

LEADER Worship the God of all ages who calls us into community.

### Prayer for all ages

God of all ages, who is and was and always will be – hear our prayer.

You who have called, listened, pushed and pulled your people into deeper connection with you:

Hear the cries of our hearts with tender understanding.

Increase the joy that surprises us in things both large and small.

Make accessible the unsurmountable paths before us.

Give us courage to put one foot in front of the other when the way is hard.

Taste the sour recesses of our hearts and sweeten them with your love.

Feel the loneliness of our days

and fill us with the companionship of your grace through others.

Stir in us the strength for creativity

as you birth beauty and imagination through us into the world.

For this new day in which we are older than we were yesterday

We give thanks for the opportunity to reflect and grow more fully in your likeness. Amen.

## **Litany of Aging in Community**

LEADER From our first breath to our last — we are invited into community  
Where we are fully known and loved, aware of God's presence in our lives.

PEOPLE **Called into Community — we are invited to give and receive the gifts of the spirit,  
welcomed and received as students who desire to learn and grow.**

LEADER Living in community we are invited out of the isolation of our self-centered places to the  
connection of companionship that crosses generations.

PEOPLE **From one generation to the next, may we encourage each other with the optimism of  
expansive thinking and the encouragement of heart deepening respect —**

LEADER For we need the presence of others to help us more fully into God's presence.

PEOPLE **With the company of others who travel this journey of faith, we serve as teachers and  
sojourners for the encouragement of the building of God's kin-dom on earth.**

LEADER No matter how long you have been on this journey, may God continue to call you ever  
more fully into paths of service.

PEOPLE **We give thanks that we are invited to learn anew as imagination sorts through  
experience to give birth to wisdom at work in creation.**

LEADER Even as we anticipate the challenges and joy that await us tomorrow,  
We give thanks for the opportunity to age in this new day —

PEOPLE **For we know that we are created God's image.**

LEADER From our first breath to our last — we are invited into community.  
May we more fully know the mystery of life and embrace the presence of Love in our  
midst.

ALL **THANKS BE TO GOD. AMEN.**

*Written by Rev. Beth Long-Higgins, these are made available through the work of the Ruth Frost Parker Center for Abundant Aging, an initiative of United Church Homes that is involved in advocacy, education and engagement with congregations and community partners to transform aging. (2019)*