

Liturgy for Grandparents



Welcome

We welcome you this morning to a time of worship where we will celebrate, remember and give thanks for grandparents who play such an important role in our family. We also acknowledge the wrestling and sometimes suffering that can be embodied in this transition of life.

Psalm 145:3–5 (*The Message*)

God is magnificent; he can never be praised enough. There are no boundaries to his greatness.

Generation after generation stands in awe of your work; each one tells stories of your mighty acts.

Your beauty and splendour have everyone talking; I compose songs on your wonders.

Hymn: ‘Thank you Lord for this fine day’

Introduction

Did you know that there are 14 million grandparents in the UK at the moment? And, if you are aged between 49 and 54, you are the average age for being one?! Of course, there are not only grandparents but great grandparents or even great-great

grandparents. Some people, even though they may not be actual grandparents, are just like grandparents. They may not have grandchildren of their own, but they help out in the community like some of the people here in our church who help at the parent and toddler groups. That's a lot of grandparent people doing lots of work and sharing lots of experience and we would be lost without them. So, one of the things we can do is to say thank you.

Some of the children here today have spent some time telling me what they call their grandparents and why their grandparents are so special in all the things that they do. We have written a special thank-you prayer and the children now will come and lead us in that prayer...

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Let us pray...

Thank you, God, for Grannies
Who make us cups of tea,
Who help us with our homework
And then let us watch TV.

*For everything they are
For everything they do
Lord we praise you.*

Thank you, God, for Granddads,
Who like to be quiet, it seems.
Who sit in a chair – their favourite one –
And sleep and snore and dream.

*For everything they are
For everything they do
Lord we praise you.*

Thank you, God, for Nannies,
Who take us out for treats.
Who cook roast dinner and always say,
'There's more for you to eat.'

*For everything they are
For everything they do
Lord we praise you.*

Thank you, God, for Papas,

Who are always ready to hear
just what we've been up to
And who smile and nod and cheer.

*For everything they are
For everything they do
Lord we praise you.*

Thank you, God, for Nans,
Especially the knitting ones.
They love to knit our jumpers,
Hats and scarves and gloves.
Cosy, warm and fluffy
Every stitch filled with love.

*For everything they are
For everything they do
Lord we praise you.*

Thank you, God, for Grandpas.
Some live far away.
To visit we travel on a plane
And stay for a holiday.

*For everything they are
For everything they do
Lord we praise you.*

Thank you, God, for Nannas
They really must be rich!
They buy yummy sweets and pay for treats
For our whole family.
Her money, though, she tells us,
'doesn't grow on a tree.'

*For everything they are
For everything they do
Lord we praise you.*

Thank you, God, for 'my old man'.
Well, that's what my Dad says.
Sometimes we visit and help a while.
Sometimes he's grumpy, sometimes he smiles.

*For everything they are
For everything they do
Lord we praise you.*

Grandparents make our families great
And God we really thank you

For your love to grannie and grandpa
And your love to all of us too.

*For everything they are
For everything they do
Lord we praise you.
Amen*

Hearing God's Word: A Grandmother of the Bible

Ruth 4:9–17 (Naomi becoming a grandmother)

Hymn: 'For the beauty of the earth'

Dialogue:

Many things change. Grandparenting may be different, grandparents may look different to how they did even 40 years ago, but one thing that can remain is the stories and traditions that are passed on through the generations.

Molly is visiting Grandma and they have taken a picnic to the local park.

Molly: Grandma did you have a grandma?

Grandma: Yes dear, Grandma Potter. She lived in a cottage near the church when this town was only a village. It was pulled down when the housing estate was built about 20 years ago.

Molly: Did you visit her?

Grandma: Yes dear, I only lived on the other side of the village so I could walk to her house. We used to come here. This park was a huge meadow then – no swings or slides to play on. It's smaller now since those large houses were built on most of it.

Molly: What did you do then with nothing to play on?

Grandma: We made our own entertainment. Grandma and I would walk in the meadow. She would tell me stories and we would make up singing and skipping games.

Molly: That sounds really boring.

Grandma: I suppose it must seem like that compared to what you get up to now. One of my favourite things was finding the dandelion clocks. Grandma and I would blow the seeds and supposedly tell the time.

Molly: What do you mean?

Grandma: Well, when the yellow dandelion flower turns to seed it becomes a delicate ball of fluff, like a fluffy white lollipop. To tell the time by a dandelion clock you blow the fluffy seeds until they are all blown away. (*Puff*) One o'clock, (*Puff*) two o'clock – an hour to a puff. It doesn't really tell the time but it was good fun. The dandelion is a clever plant for the seeds, dispersed by either the wind or by human puff, settle and new plants grow and thrive - I don't think they will ever die out and some gardeners get cross about that!

Molly: Just like your stories Grandma – if we pass them on they will never die. Come on, let's find some dandelion clocks and tell the time.

Grandma: Oh, not boring then?

Molly: No way!

Family Talk: *Passing on the Tradition*

Incorporating: Deuteronomy 4:9 and 2 Timothy 1:1-5 (*passing on the faith*)

During this time, there is also the opportunity for the children to go to a supervised space within the sanctuary area to participate in making gifts to be distributed later in the service.

Hymn: 'All are welcome (Let us build a house where love can dwell)'

Presentation of handmade gifts:

The children have been busy and we would like to present everyone with a handmade gift. It carries the message of our time here today. If you are a grandparent, if you have a grandparent or know someone in a grandparenting role and you would like to take or send one, please indicate to the young people as they come around the church. You may also like one as you remember your own grandparents or as you reflect on grandparenting in the future.

Prayers of Intercession (*led by a grandparent of the church*)

Mighty God, parent and grandparent to us your children,

Wise and generous

Caring and protective

You love us unconditionally

You bless us in mighty ways.

We pray now for all grandparents, step-grandparents, great grandparents and great great-grandparents.

Those we know and those we don't know.

Those who live close by and those who live far away.

Those who are grandparents for the first time and those who have been doing it for years.

In the quietness, we call them to mind.

We pray now for people who are like grandparents to us.

Those who are our neighbours and live in our street.

Those who are like grandparents to others and work in our community.

Those who belong to our church

In the quietness, we give thanks

We pray now for grandparents who see their grandchildren often and those who don't see them at all.

Those who are full time carers for their grandchildren

Those where family breakdown means they have lost contact with grandchildren

Those who grandparent across the miles and the oceans

In the quietness, we reach out

We pray now for those for whom grandparenting hurts

Those who anxious about being grandparents

Those longing and waiting to be grandparents

Those in conflict and family rift

In the quietness, we wipe their tears

We pray now for people who experience loss and for those who pray for healing

Those who mourn a grandparent and those who remember a grandparent

Those whose grandparents no longer recognize them

Those whose grandparents are unwell

Those who have become their grandparents' carer.

In the quietness, we remember

Amen

We pray now with grandparents who are here today

The Grandparents' Prayer is written on your service sheet.

For those who are grandparents you may like to pray it aloud or silently.

Others may like to keep our grandparents close in your hearts as they pray

Grandparents' Prayer

Heavenly Father, being a grandparent is a gift so incredible and yet so complex.

I pray for the wisdom and guidance as I discover my life as a grandparent.

Help me to know when to speak and when to stay quiet

Give me words to encourage and enrich.

Protect from harm each precious child of mine and when times of illness and challenge should fall give them strength to handle and grace to heal.

May I be a channel of your wisdom, comfort and peace and

May I pass on the faith, share tradition and plant the seeds of your love. Amen

Hymn: 'Jesus put this song into our hearts'

Blessing:

As we are dispersed into the world to share our faith

May God bless us and keep us, together with all our loved ones

Everywhere and in everything.

Amen

Bookmark

Spread the seed
of faith



It
grows, thrives
and
never dies



So faith comes
from what is
heard and what is
heard comes through
the word of Christ
Romans 10:17

The children and young people use various images of dandelion clocks and craft materials to construct and decorate the bookmark. The text is pre-printed.