

October 1

Resilience of
older persons in a
changing world



Leaders notes

Introduction to theme

Over the past century, our world has experienced rapid change. New innovations have transformed the way we travel, communicate, work, produce food and make money. In 2023, on International Day of Older Persons, we celebrate how older people have helped bring about progress. We also acknowledge their courage and resilience in a changing world.

Change can be exciting and liberating but it can also be challenging and bewildering. However we feel about it, it is an unavoidable part of life. In the midst of change, God remains steady. He is our anchor, holding us firm. No matter what happens, we can find strength and resilience in his steadfast goodness and love.

On International Day of Older Persons, make space to highlight older people in your corps and community by:

- Celebrating their contributions
- Listening to their stories of how God has sustained them
- Discovering how you can support them through future change

Suggested Scripture

The Lord will work out his plans for my life – for your faithful love,
O Lord, endures forever.

Psalms 138:8 (NLT)

Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise him, all you people of the earth.
2 For his unfailing love for us is powerful;
the Lord's faithfulness endures forever.
Praise the Lord!

Psalms 117 (NLT)

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Responsive reading – Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: Give thanks to the God of gods.

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord of lords.

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles.

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully.

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: Give thanks to him who placed the earth among the waters.

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights —

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: the sun to rule the day,

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: and the moon and stars to rule the night.

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: He remembered us in our weakness.

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: He saved us from our enemies.

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: He gives food to every living thing.

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*

Leader: Give thanks to the God of heaven.

Response: *His faithful love endures forever.*



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Intergenerational prayer

Older person – Dear Lord, we praise you for your faithfulness.

Child – We thank you for creating us and our amazing world.

Young adult – We see how things are constantly changing and growing.

Older person – We see your hand guiding us through the changes and inspiring growth in our lives.

Child – We trust in your goodness.

Young adult – We walk in your light.

Older person – We continue to step into the fullness of life that you offer.

Child – When we go through hard times ...

Young adult – We remember your faithfulness ...

Older person – We trust you to bring us through the challenges, secure in your love.

All – Amen.

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