



**Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY**

Older Persons Sunday – 3 October 2021

The wisdom of older people

Rev Sharon Hollis

President, Uniting Church in Australia Assembly

One of the stories I love in the Bible is of Anna and Simeon faithfully watching for God's salvation. I love it because they remind me of the power of faith tested over time and of the wisdom of older people to know how to watch and wait for God's new thing and to embrace that new thing with love.

The Uniting Church's life is enriched by its many older members who remember faithfully and watch hopefully for where God is leading, and nurture and encourage others across the generations. We give thanks for their worship, witness and service.

More broadly, as a society we are gifted by the many contributions, diverse experiences and loving care we receive from the older Australians in our lives. In the Uniting Church, we believe all people should be treated with respect and dignity. I welcome the new initiatives of UnitingCare Australia in setting up Uniting Friends of Ageing, and Older Persons Sunday. Alongside UnitingCare Australia, we call for the changes needed to transform our aged care system to ensure older people can live their fullest life.