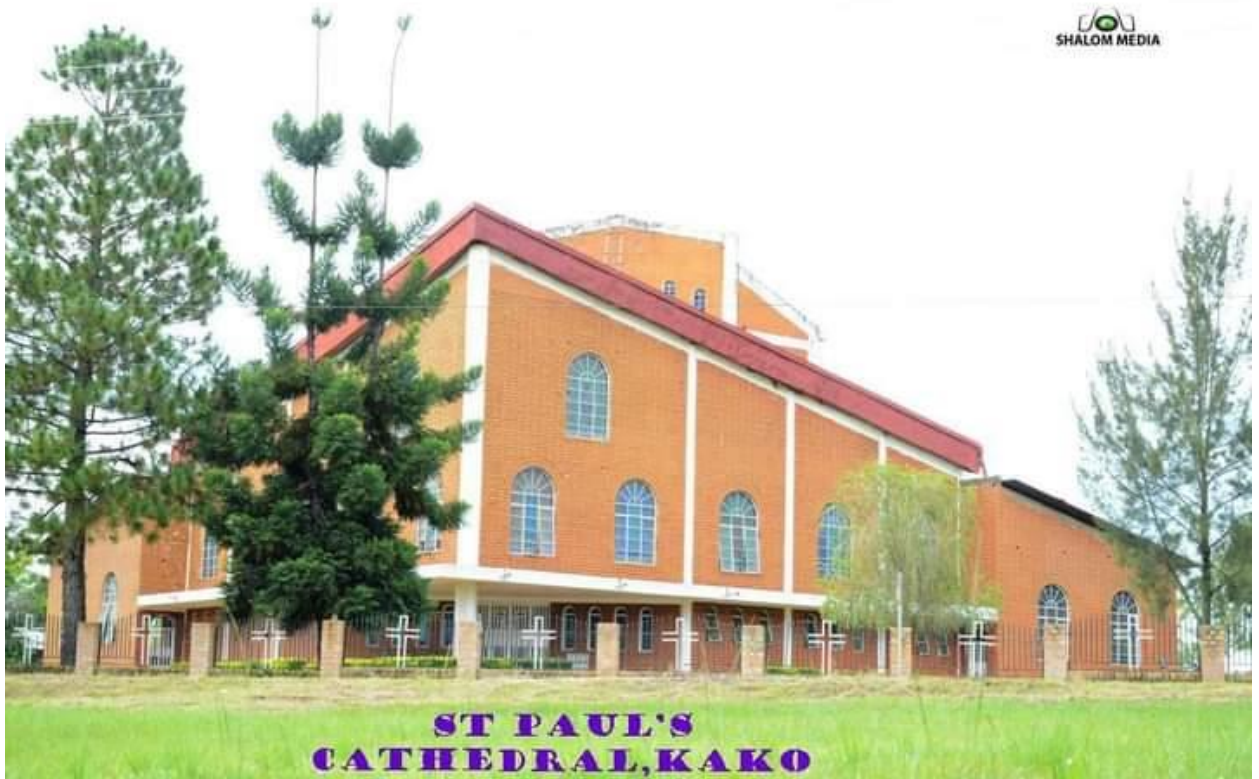


GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY – WORLD'S DAY OF PRAYERS 2023

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL CHURCH – KAKO.

29th September 2023



The Theme of the Day: In Him was life and that life was the light of all mankind. (John 1:4).

Prepared by GFS Uganda – West Buganda Diocese.

Brief Information on Uganda

Uganda is in the African Great Lakes region. It lies within the Nile basin and has a varied but a generally modified equatorial climate. It has a population of around 49.6 million, of which 8.5 million live in the capital and largest city of Kampala. The country is bordered to the east by Kenya, to the north by South Sudan, to the west by the Democratic Republic of Congo, to the southwest by Rwanda and to the south by Tanzania. The southern part of the country includes a substantial portion of Lake Victoria, shared with Kenya and Tanzania.

GFS/BFS Motto Worldwide: “Bear one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2).

The genesis of GFS in Uganda:

The Girls Friendly Society in Uganda was introduced in 2013 in the diocese of West Buganda by Ms. Gertrude Nakintu with the blessings of the bishop emeritus Dr. Samuel Kefa Kamyama Semakula. The GFS in the country was officially inaugurated in 2016 by the current GFS Worldwide President Thembeke Pama who visited the diocese and also visited different parishes in the diocese of West Buganda. The GFS is now gradually growing in 4 different dioceses in Uganda.

We are grateful to God and to the GFS World Council for admitting Uganda to the membership of GFS in the World level, thus making it possible for us to form the first GFS in the country in the diocese of West Buganda. We are also grateful indeed for the current Bishop of West Buganda Diocese Rt. Rev. Henry Katumba Tamale and Rev. Canon Elizabeth Julia Tamale who have managed to extend the GFS to most of the parishes in the West Buganda Diocese. In addition, we are extremely thankful for all his support and encouragement which have contributed to the growth of the GFS in Uganda. We cannot thank him enough. We are certain that the GFS will gradually expand to the rest of the dioceses in the country.

Order of the Service:

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: And also, with you

Leader:

Introductory verses: Then our sons in their youth will be like well-nurtured plants, and our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace. Our barns will be filled with every kind of provision. Our sheep will increase by tens of thousands in our fields (Psalms 144: 12-13)

Opening Hymn

Enter, rejoice and come in,

Enter, rejoice and come in,

Today will be a joyful day.

Enter, rejoice and come in.

Sing alleluia (x2)

Today will be a joyful day.

Sing aleluya.

Lift your voice to the Lord (x2)

Today will be a joyful day.

Lift your voice to the Lord.

Open your hearts to the Lord (x2)

Today will be a joyful day.

Open your hearts to the Lord.

Leader: Beloved in Christ, we have come together to offer to Almighty God our worship, praise, and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear and receive His proclaimed Holy Word, to bring before Him our needs and the needs of the whole world, and to pray that in the power of His spirit, we may serve Him and know the greatness of His love.

The Bible tells us not to hide our sins from God, our Heavenly Father, but to confess them with a repentant and obedient heart so that we may receive His forgiveness in our lives. Let us therefore sit or kneel to confess our sins to Almighty God.

A moment of silence may be observed.

All:

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we have sinned against You and against our neighbours, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault - by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve You in newness of life to the glory of Your name, Amen!

The Absolution

If there is Bishop or priest pronounce the absolution:

Almighty God, who forgives all who repent, has mercy on you; Pardon and deliver you from all your sins; Confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

Or a leader may say the following prayers:

Merciful Lord, grant to Your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and may be free to serve You with peace in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our father in heaven, Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Leader: O' Lord open our lips

All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Leader: Blessed are those who live in your house,

All: They will always be singing your praise

All Stand for the Psalm of the Day

Psalm 97: 1 –5

The Lord reigns.

Let the earth rejoice.

Let the multitude of isles be glad!

Clouds and darkness surround Him.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

A fire goes before Him and burns up His enemies around about.

His lightnings light the world.

The earth sees and trembles.

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord.

ALL: Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, as it is now and will be forever, Amen.

People sit for the reading!

The Ministry of the Word

Old Testament

Genesis 28: 10 – 17.

Jacob's dream at Bethel

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it, stood the Lord, and He said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are laying. Your descendants will be like dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be

blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place and I was not aware of it.” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of Heaven.

The Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to the Lord

Revelation 12: 1 – 17: The Woman and the Dragon.

A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of the twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. Then another sign appeared in heaven - an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his head. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron sceptre. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days. And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God Day and night, has been hurled down. They overcome him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore, rejoice you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury because he knows that his time is short.” When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent’s reach. Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon spewed out of his mouth. Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring—those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea.

The Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to the Lord

Hymn

Rock of ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee!
Rock of ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee!

Let the water and the blood!
From thy riven side which flowed
Oh, be of sin the double cure!
Cleanses me from its guilt and power.
Nothing in my hand I bring.
Simply to thy cross I cling.
Nothing in my hand I bring.
Simply to thy cross I cling.

Naked, come to thee for dress (come to thee for dress)
Helpless, look to thee for grace.
(Oh, look to thee for grace)
Vile, I to the fountain fly
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

All remain standing for the Gospel.

The Gospel

John 1: 47 – 51

When Jesus saw Nathaniel, He said of him, “Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.”
“How do you know me?” Nathaniel asked. Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig-tree before Philip called you.”

Then Nathaniel declared, “Rabbi, you are the son of God; you are the King of Israel.”

Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig-tree. You shall see greater things than that.” He then added, “I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to Christ our Saviour

Hymn.

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus.
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the Cross before me (x3)
No turning back, no turning back

Though none go with me, I still will follow (x3)
No turning back, no turning back

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? (x3)
No turning back, no turning back

Sing glory, glory, sing aleluya! (x3)
No turning back, no turning back.

The people sit for the sermon.

Sermon:

Theme: In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind (John 1:4).

The APOSTLES' CREED

All Christians stand to recite the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate
Was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: and also, with you.

Leader: let us pray

The intercession

The leader may select one or two people to intercede according to the needs of the people, or some of these prayers.

1. Prayer of Saint Michael and All Angels:

Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals; mercifully grant us that, as Your holy angel's ways

serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen

2. Prayers for Church

Almighty God, we pray for all Churches throughout the world and more especially the Anglican Communion all over the world. Grant to our Archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons and all leaders and Christians in our Churches, your life-giving Spirit of wisdom and understanding. Help all Christians to practically serve and live to the standards of Your teachings through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3. Prayers for the Nations

O God, Creator and Preserver of all humankind, bless the people of all nations, reconcile those who are divided, relieve the hungry and oppressed. Help and guide our presidents (N), the three arms of the government: the executive, the legislative, the judiciary and all other leaders to work for peace, unity and prosperity of all Your people through Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

4. Prayers for the Sick and Suffering

Heavenly Father, we pray for all those who are sick and those who are facing difficulties. Help them to know Your love that they may seek strength from You, and find peace and healing in Your presence, care for the infants, guide the young, support the aged, encourage the faint-hearted. Defend and protect the widows, widowers, and orphans. Deliver the captives and those whom we have forgotten. For You are the helper of the helpless and the Saviour of the lost. We pray that You reveal Your power and kindness to each one of them according to Your merciful-kindness, and eternal love, through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

5. Prayers for peace in the world

God Almighty and ever-living father, we commit the world into Your able hand, for peace and unity to prevail. Safeguard the world from misunderstandings, disunity, hatred that brings war, killings and destructions of properties. Almighty God, for we know the world is Yours, may You bring peace, unity, and love amongst nations. Our heavenly God may Your Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of all leaders in the world. We pray for Your wisdom and guidance, through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

6. Prayers for families

We give You thanks, O God, for the gift of families to be for us a place of love, care and support. In times of joy, help us to celebrate each other; in times of sorrow and trouble, help us to be a source of comfort to each other; give us the strength to uphold each other. We pray for Your divine intervention in the situation of families that are struggling with chronic illness and those having financial difficulties; those whose love in marriages is getting cold due to unfaithfulness, rejuvenate them and those facing separation, and reunite them in Your love.

Those struggling with addictions and discouragement by grown up children, bring them change in their situation. May God's grace and love abide in all families through our Lord Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

7. GFS Prayers

Heavenly and everlasting Father, we thank You for GFS Worldwide, which has created a forum where our young girls and young women can be encouraged and supported to improve their lives. We humbly pray for Your blessings upon all GFS members and societies throughout the world. We pray that You may give us grace to fulfil our motto of GFS ***to carry each other's burdens and thus fulfil the law of Christ.*** We thank you for the life and ministry of Miss Elizabeth Townsend, the founder of GFS Worldwide, may You Lord grant her eternal life. Gracious Lord, we pray also for all GFS partners, and all those who support GFS both financially and spiritually. We pray for GFS world President Mama Thembeke Pama and her Organizing team as she prepares to host the GFS World Council 2023 in South Africa. We also pray for the incoming GFS World President Jeanne Withanage. We pray for all national GFS Presidents; we pray for GFS Chaplains and the entire GFS membership. May your grace be with all the bishops who support and encourage the ministry of GFS in their dioceses, through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

The Leader:

Oh God our Lord, You have promised that when two or more are gathered in Your name, you will grant them their requests, Answer our prayers in Jesus Christ's name. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn

Amazing grace – how sweet the sound-
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

, Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear.
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me.
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be.
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise.
Than when we'd first begun.

Laying gifts on the Alter

Announcement

Blessings/Benediction

The Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds, in the knowledge and love of God and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

Priest/Leader:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: We go in the name of Christ. Amen.

Closing Hymn

For I'm building a people of power,
And I'm making a people of praise,
That will move through this land by My Spirit.
And will glorify My precious name.

Build your Church, Lord.
Make us strong Lord.
Join our hearts, Lord,
Through Your Son.

Make us one, in Your body,
In the Kingdom of Your Son.

The end of service.