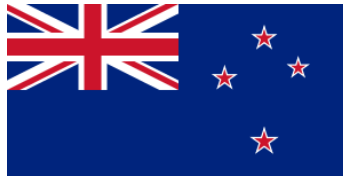




GFS New Zealand



Girls' Friendly Society
World Day of Prayer
2014

Theme: **Grasping the hope set before us**
(Hebrews 7:18)

Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"

- 1 Be though my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art –
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, thy child let me be;
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.
- 3 Be thou my armour, my sword for the fight,
be thou my dignity, thou my delight;
thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tower:
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
- 4 Riches I scorn and the world's empty praise,
thou my inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only the first in my heart;
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 5 High King of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Leader:

We have waited eagerly for you O Lord;
For you are our help and our shield; our hearts shall rejoice in you,
because we have hoped in your holy name.

The Collect:

Give us courage to hope and to risk disappointment.
Teach us to pray expectantly,
And when our prayers seem to fail,
Bring us to pray again and again;
For you are our God,
Who acts and will act again.

The Readings:

Psalm 119: 129-135

Your instruction is wonderful;
therefore I keep it with all my heart.
The unfolding of your word gives light:
and those who are untaught receive understanding.
I open my mouth and sigh
with longing for your commandments.
Turn to me and be merciful to me:
as is your way with those who love you.
Keep steady my footsteps, according to your promise:
and let no evil get mastery over me.
Rescue me from human oppression:
so that I may keep your precepts.
Let your face shine on your servant:
and teach me your decrees.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

1 Peter 1:3-9

Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of his great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for his people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away. They are for you, who through faith are kept safe by God's power for the salvation which is ready to be revealed at the end of time. Be glad about this, even though it may now be necessary for you to be sad for a while because of the many kinds of trials you suffer. Their purpose is to prove that your faith is genuine. Even gold, which can be destroyed, is tested by fire; and so your faith, which is much more precious than gold, must also be tested, so that it may endure. Then you will receive praise and glory and honour on the Day when Jesus Christ is revealed. You love him, although you have not seen him, and you believe in him, although you do not now see him. So you rejoice with a great and glorious joy which words cannot express, because you are receiving the salvation of your souls, which is the purpose of your faith in him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn: "Through all the changing scenes of life" tune Wiltshire

- 1 Through all the changing scenes of life,
 in trouble and in joy,
 The praises of my God shall still
 my heart and tongue employ

- 2 Of his deliverance I will boast
 'til all that are distressed,
 when learning this, will comfort take
 and calm their griefs to rest.

- 3 O magnify the Lord with me,
 with me exalt his name;
 when in distress to him I called
 he to my rescue came.

- 4 The hosts of God encamp around
 the dwellings of the just;
 deliverance he provides for all
 who in his mercy trust.

- 5 O make but trial of his love;
 experience will decide
 how blest are they, and only they,
 who in his truth confide.

- 6 Fear him, you saints, and you will then
 have nothing else to fear;
 if in his service you delight
 your wants shall be his care.

A Reflection: “The Lake of Beauty” Edward Carpenter

Let your mind be quiet, realising the beauty of the world,
and the immense, the boundless treasures that it holds in store.
All that you have within you, all that your heart desires,
all that your Nature so specially fits you for – that or the
counterpart of it waits embedded in the great Whole, for you.
It will surely come to you.

Yet equally surely not one moment before its appointed time
will it come. All your crying and fever and reaching out of
hands will make no difference.
Therefore do not begin that game at all.
Do not recklessly spill the waters of your mind
in this direction and in that,
lest you become like a spring lost and
dissipated in the desert.

But draw them together into a little compass,
and hold them still, so still;
And let them become clear, so clear – so limpid, so mirror-like;
at last the mountains and the sky shall glass themselves in
peaceful beauty,
and the antelope shall descend to drink and to gaze at her
reflected image, and the lion to quench his thirst,
and Love himself shall come and bend over and catch his
own likeness in you.

Leader: As Christ teaches us we pray

**Our father in heaven,
hallowed be your name
your kingdom come
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today your daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen**

The GFS Prayer:

God, our Father,

We thank you for your goodness, love and mercy to all who belong to Girls' Friendly Society worldwide.

Help us to bear one another's burdens, as members of one family in Jesus Christ.

We ask for your blessings on our members that we may grow in grace through your Spirit.

Help us to know in our lives the joy of your everlasting love:

through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord.

Amen

Sermon

Prayers

God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in faith with thanksgiving.

We pray for the work of GFS throughout the world.

We give thanks for the work of leaders; for the teaching of life skills, organising trips, activities and camps, for outreach to those less fortunate: orphans, the homeless and those in need.

Leader: God of Hope

All: Hear our prayer

Silence

For bringing Christ into the lives of our members and for love and support for one another.

Leader: God of Hope

All: Hear our prayer

Silence

We pray for World Projects in PNG, The Solomons, Korea and Japan, for Australia's continuing involvement in PNG and the development of new branches in other dioceses.

Leader: God of Hope

All: Hear our prayer

Silence

We remember the survivors of Fukushima and East Japan and we give thanks for GFS members' ongoing care for women struggling to find normalcy in their lives.

Leader: God of Hope

All: Hear our prayer

Silence

We give thanks for the success of Cafe Grace in Korea and the new initiative offering cholarships and encouragement to the children of North Korean survivors.

Leader: God of Hope

All: Hear our prayer

Silence

Merciful God, you look with compassion on all who turn to you.
Hear the prayers of your people.

All:

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
We may by your grace receive;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Hymn: "In Christ Alone I Stand"

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground;
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease;
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground, His body lay;
Light of the world, by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth, in glorious day
up from the grave He rose again.
And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death;
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry, to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of Hell, no scheme of man
can ever block me from His hand;
'til he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.
'Til he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

The Dismissal

Leader:

O God,
Guidance is my friend,
And always will be so,
But may my mind
Never become closed by belief.
May it always be open
To the surprise of You
To the newness of You,
To the rush of wonder that comes
With the discovery of You
In unexpected places.

Amen

God of the Unexpected
"Psalms for the Road" Joy Cowley