

# Girls' Friendly Society-World Day of Prayer 2019

Theme: Discovering our talents and serving God in the contemporary world  
1corinthians12:20

St Michael and All Angels  
29<sup>th</sup> September 2019



*Prepared by GFS Rwanda*

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## **Brief Information about Rwanda**

Rwanda is located in Central/Eastern Africa, and is bordered by the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west, Uganda to the north, Tanzania to the east, and Burundi to the south. The capital city is Kigali. It is a land of thousand hills as green as it looks on the cover page. Kinyarwanda, English and French are the official languages used. There is only one native language which is Kinyarwanda

## **Background and Context of Gfs Worldwide**

The Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) is a Christian charitable society that empowers girls and young women, encouraging them to develop their full potential through programs that provide training, confidence building, educational opportunities and other long life experiences as well as values. It was established in 1875 in England by Elizabeth Townsend to help girls who came to the city from the countryside and address, through Christian values, the problems of working-class out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

**GFS motto** "worldwide is derived from Galatians 6:2: "Bear one another`s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ"

**Girls 'friendly society (GFS) in Rwanda**, takes a unique shape with the events and aftermath of 1994 genocide against Tutsi, we were experiencing a generational gap. Many young women had little ideas from older mothers and grandmothers who were lost or traumatised by the genocide. Furthermore, there was a great disconnect between the remaining generation of older Christian women and the young generation of this fast growing and developing country. As a result, young women were being taken advantage of and falling into temptations that are arising from globalization and rapid development. Girls` are learning from Mass media, marketing and the global social media instead of learning from the generation of Christian women that preceded them. Girls were seeking identity, value and success in those things that are not eternal and many were leaving the faith for these aspects that spoil their future.

It is in that respect that Gfs was established in 2015 in Kigali Diocese by Rev. Winnie Muvunyi who is our Chaplain and the main purpose was to close the gaps that are mentioned above. GFS Rwanda, has expanded to all parishes of Kigali Diocese with over 400 members. It has also been introduced in Byumba Diocese with over 200 members.

**Order of service:**

**Introductory verses:** For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone; Psalm 91:11-12

**Opening Hymn;**

1. Stand up, stand up, for Jesus,  
You soldier of the cross!  
Lift high His loyal banner,  
It must not suffer loss:  
From victory on to victory  
His army he shall lead,  
Till evil is defeated,  
And Christ is Lord indeed.
  
2. Stand up stand up for Jesus!  
The trumpet-call obey,  
Then join the mighty conflict  
In this His glorious day  
Be strong in faith and serve Him  
Against un numbered foes,  
Let courage raise with danger,  
And strength to strength oppose.
  
3. Stand up stand up for Jesus!  
Stand in His power alone  
For human mighty will fail you  
You dare not trust your own  
Put on the gospel armour,  
Keep watching with constant prayer,  
Where duty calls or danger,  
Be never failing there.
  
4. Stand up stand up for Jesus!  
The fight will not be long;  
This day the noise of battle  
The next the victor`s song  
To everyone who conquers  
A crown of life shall be;  
We, with the king of glory,  
Shall reign ternary

**Leader:** We have come together as a family of God in our father`s presence, to offer Him praise and thanks giving, to hear and receive His holly word, to bring before Him the needs of the world, to ask His forgiveness of our sins, and to seek His grace that through His son Jesus Christ, we may give ourselves to His service

**All:** Inspire us O Lord, as we come to worship.  
Draw us to yourself in prayers and praises,  
and help us to understand your word;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Leader:** Let us pray,  
Let us confess our sins to Almighty God,  
**(A moment of silence may be kept)**

**All:** Almighty God,  
We confess that we have sinned in our thoughts,  
in our words, in what we have done  
and in what we have failed to do.  
We are like lost ship unable to help ourselves.  
Have mercy on us, Lord,  
Forgive those who confess their faults,  
as you promised  
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Priest: (If the priest is present)**

Almighty God,  
Who forgives all who truly repent.  
Have mercy on us,  
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;

**Leader:** Heavenly father  
Who promised forgiveness, to all who repent.  
Renew our hearts we pray, and make them humble;  
That we may admit our faults and sinfulness.  
And receive from you complete forgiveness.  
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.  
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, power and glory are yours  
Now and for ever. Amen

**Leader:** Let us praise God for His mercy.  
**All:** And give thanks to Him for his goodness  
**Leader:** O Lord, open our lips;  
**All:** And our **mouth shall sing your praise**

### **Hymn**

1. Lord, the light of your Love is shining  
In the midst of darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me.

#### **Chorus**

*Shine, Jesu shine  
Feel this land with the father`s glory  
Blaze, spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow river flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word Lord,  
And let there be light.*

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me shine on me

*Shine, Jesu shine....*

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness.  
So our faces display your lightness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your stay  
Shine on me, shine on me

## **Readings:**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

#### **Revelation 12:1-12**

#### **The Woman and the Dragon:**

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of 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 its heads. Its 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 it might devour her child the moment he was born. She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.” And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

Then war broke out 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 Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They triumphed over 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.”

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God

*(A psalm may be read or sang)*

**Plasms: 133**

Behold, how good and pleasant it is  
When brothers dwell in unity;  
It is like the precious oil on the head,  
Running down on the beard,  
On the beard of Aaron,  
Running down on the collar of his robes;  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
Which falls on the mountains of Zion,  
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,  
Life for ever more

**2nd Lesson**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31**

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honourable we treat with special honour. And the parts that are unrepresentable are treated with special modesty,

while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

**Leader:** This is the word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God

**A song:**

1. When we walk with the Lord,  
In the light of His word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
When we do His good will  
He abides with us still,

And with all who trust and obey!

*Trust and obey!*

*For there is no other way to be happy in Jesus*

*But to trust and obey.*

2. Not a shadow can raise  
Not a cloud in the skies,  
But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt nor a fear.  
Not a sigh nor a tear,  
Can abide while we trust and obey

*Trust and obey....*

3. Not a burden we bear,  
Not a sorrow we share  
But our toil He doth richly repay,  
Not a grief nor a loss,  
But is blest if we trust and obey

*Trust and obey....*



4. But we never can improve,  
The delights of His love,  
Until all on the alter we lay,  
For the favour He shows,  
And the joy He bestows,  
Are for them who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey...*

5. Then in the fellow ship sweet  
We will sit at His feet,  
Or, we will walk by His side in the way,  
What He says we will do,  
Where He sends we will go,  
Never fear, only trust and obey!

*Trust and obey...*

## **Sermon**

### **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 from the dead

He ascended into heaven;

And is seated at the right hand of the Father Almighty

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Holy Christian 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

**People:** And with you also

**Leader:** Let us pray

**Intercessions:**

1. **Prayer for the Church,**

Almighty and eternal God, the only source of power,  
we humbly pray for your church, in all the world, grant to all  
the people of our churches, our Bishops and clergy  
your healthy- giving spirit of grace, and that we may truly please you,  
pour on us the continual dew of your blessing.  
Grant this for the sake of our advocate and mediator Jesus Christ. **Amen**

## **2. Prayer for the nation**

Guide we pray O Lord,  
all who have responsibilities for governing our nations,  
Give the wisdom in word and action,  
may they uphold what is right, hate what is wrong and perform what is just,  
For the welfare of our people and the glory of your name,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

## **3. Prayer for the sick**

Look down in a pity oh Merciful Lord  
On all who are ill or in pain (may mention names of those known)  
Help them to look to you to meet their needs  
Give them patience to endure their sufferings  
And in your good time deliver them from every condition  
For the sake of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

## **4. GFS Prayer**

Dear Lord, we thank you for the blessings and good works  
of gfs worldwide, we lift them up to you king of Glory, fill them  
with your Holy spirit and let us always acknowledge you and that  
your word may be the source of our wisdom, be our shield  
and defender Lord, Father Lord, we pray for our world president

Mama Thembeke and her council that as they prepare for the coming world council Lord, you give them guidance, wisdom, protection and provisions. We pray for the Financial break-through King of Glory, to enable gfs members' full participation in the world council. We pray for all the chaplains, and the entire leadership in all nations Lord, give them vigour to carry on your ministry in Love and truth. Help us to bear one another's burden Lord and make the world a happy place to live in for the sake of our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

#### **5. Prayer for peace in the world**

Almighty God,

All thought of truth and peace come from you;  
We pray you therefore, put into the hearts of  
All men a real desire for peace  
And guide with your wisdom all who work for unity  
And understanding between men and women,  
That the nations of the world may be at peace  
And your kingdom extended until the earth is  
Filled with the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **6. Our Homes and families**

Heavenly father, whose plan it was that people should live together in families, for mutual love and help, and for encouragement in good living, we thank you for our homes, for our children, parents and our families. Keep those whom we love under your care and protection, save them from danger, and strengthen them in all that is good, for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

**Leader:** O Lord God,  
you have promised that,  
that when two or three  
Have met in your name,  
You will grant their requests  
Answer now, O Lord,  
The desires and requests,

Of your servants  
As may be best for us.  
Grant us knowledge of your truth,  
And the gift of internal life  
Amen.

**Offertory Hymn:**

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works your hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder  
Your power through the universe displayed

*Chorus*

*Then sing my soul my saviour God to you,  
How great thou art! How great though art!  
Then sing my soul my saviour God to you,  
How great thou art! How great though art!*

2. When through the woods and forest glades I wonder  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

*Then sing my soul....*

3. And when I think, that God, his son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died, to take away my sins.

*Then sing my soul....*

4. When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation,  
And take me home-what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great though art!

**Laying gifts on the Alter**

**Leader:** To you, O God, belong greatness  
Power, glory and majesty,

For everything in heaven and on  
Earth is yours

**All:** O Lord accept our gifts to represent the offering of our lives,  
Though Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen.

### **Announcement**

### **Blessings/Benediction**

**Priest:** (If the priest is present we shall say the following blessings)

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
The Lord make His face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you,  
The Lord look kindly on you,  
And give you peace;  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
The father, the son and the holy spirit,  
Be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen

### **Closing Hymn:**

1. To God be the Glory!  
Great things He has done,  
So loved He the World  
That He gave us His son;  
Who yielded His life  
And atonement for sin  
And opened the life gate  
That all may go in.

*Chorus:*

*Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord!*

*Let the Earth hear His voice*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!*

*Let the people rejoice*

*O come to the father through Jesus the son*

*And give Him the glory great things He has done*

2. Perfect redemption,  
The purchase of blood!  
To every believer the promise of God,  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus  
A pardon receives

*Praise the Lord.....*

3. Great things He has taught us  
Great things He has done  
And great our rejoicing  
Through Jesus the son  
But purer, and higher  
And greater will be  
Our wonder, our rapture,  
When Jesus we see

*Praise the Lord.....*