

# GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

St Michael and All Angels

(29 September 2016)

**THEME:** SEEK THE LORD WHILE HE CAN BE FOUND ...

*(Isaiah 55:6)*

PREPARED BY GFS SIERRA LEONE



GFS was established at the Cathedral of St George, in the Anglican Diocese of Freetown in 1966, and is celebrating 50 years of existence this year. It has since expanded to various Parishes, with twenty-five active branches. By God's grace, more Branches are expected to be inaugurated in some distant parishes outside Freetown. Effort has been made to establish GFS within the Bo Diocese which is still in the initial stage. Follow-up actions are in the pipeline.

Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone, is a peninsular with beautiful beaches among many natural resources. Sierra Leone is a small country on the west coast of Africa with a population of about 7 million (according to recent census). Its national colours are green, white and blue.

English is the official language, and Krio is the lingua franca. There are many other languages and ethnic groups around the Country.

## Order of Service

### 1. Processional hymn: No 1.

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not  
As thou hast been thou forever will be.

*Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see*  
*All I have needed thy hand hath provided:*  
*Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

2. Summer and Winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness,  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today, bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!.

### 2. Introductory sentences.

**LEADER:** When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him: neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws which sets before us.

Today, members of the Girls' Friendly Society around the world .....

**Let us call to mind and confess our sins:**

***The general confession)***

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you, through our own faults, in thought, word, and deed; and in what we have left undone, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your name. Amen.

**LEADER: Let us pray**

O Lord, Open our lips

Response: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

**LEADER: O God, make speed to save us**

Response: O Lord, make haste to help us.

**LEADER: (All standing) Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.**

Response: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen.

**LEADER: Praise ye the Lord**

Response: The Lord's name be praised.

**LEADER: Collect for the day.**

O Everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order: mercifully grant that, as thy Holy angels always do Thee service in heaven, so by thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**LEADER: The Lord be with you.**

Response: And also with you.

### **Ministry of the Word**

**First Reading: Rev. 12: 7-12**

The great dragon cast out.

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 overcame him by the blood of the lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their life so much as to shrink from death.

Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and to the sea, because the devil has gone to you! He is filled with fury because he knows that his time is short.

### **3. Hymn: No 2**

1. Be thou my guardian and my guide  
And hear me when I call;  
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,  
And hold me lest I fall.

3. And if I tempted am to sin,  
And outward things are strong,  
Do thou, O lord, keep watch within,  
And save my soul from wrong.

2. The word, the flesh, and Satan dwell  
Around the path I tread;  
O save me from the snares of hell,  
Thou quickener of the dead.

4. Still let me ever watch and pray,  
And feel that I am frail;  
That if the tempter cross my way  
Yet he may not prevail.

### **4. The Gospel, Matthew 18:1-6, 10**

The disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?'  
He called a child, set him in front of them.

And said, 'I tell you this: unless you turn round and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of Heaven.

Let a man humble himself till he is like this child, and he will be the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven.

Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.

But if a man is a cause of stumbling to one of these little ones who have faith in me, it would be better for him to have a millstone hung round his neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.

'Never despise one of these little ones; I tell you, they have their guardian angels in heaven, who look continually on the face of my heavenly Father.

## **5. Address/Homily on the Theme of Prayer**

### **6. The Nicene Creed**

**LEADER:** Let us reaffirm the faith of the Church by saying together the Nicene Creed. (All standing)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one Holy Catholic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **7. The Intercession**

#### **Reader 1 (Prayer for the Church)**

Govern and direct your Holy Church O God; fill it with love and truth and grant it that unity which is your will. Give your ministers boldness to preach the gospel around the world and to make disciples of all nations.

We pray for the continual growth and fellowship of the Anglican Communion throughout the World, for our bishops, priests, deacons, and all leaders of your church. Rebuild, restore, renew and revive your Church O God, so that your people will do mighty exploits in the name of Jesus and pour out your spirit of grace on the church universal.

Enlighten them with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and lifestyles they may proclaim your word.

**Lord in thy mercy:**

Hear our prayer.

**Reader 2** (Prayer for all in authority)

Guide and direct Leaders and all those who are in authority among all nations — in Church and in state, into the ways of peace and justice. We ask O God, that you grant all who have power over the lives of others, the humility to seek your guidance and the courage to do your will. We bring before you, all those who administer the law, that they may uphold justice, honesty and truth.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Reader 3** (Prayer for the sick and suffering)

O Lord, help and comfort the lonely, the bereaved, and the oppressed. Succour all those who are in sorrow, need, sickness, natural and man-made disasters, and all forms of adversity; show pity on prisoners, refugees and all who are in trouble, especially that by your blessing upon them and those who try to help them, they may find encouragement and peace. Lord Jesus, we beseech you, by the loneliness of your suffering on the cross, be near to all who are desolate and in pain or sorrow this day; let your presence transform their sorrow into comfort and their loneliness into fellowship with you, for your tender mercy's sake.

Comfort and provide for all doctors, nurses and health workers who are at risk to care for the sick wherever they are, and grant them the patience, courage and patience as you use them day by day.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Reader 4**

Prayer for GFS worldwide

O God our Father, we thank you for your goodness and blessings of life. You who are a God of compassion and mercy, we ask you in the name of your son Jesus Christ, to deepen within us, care and concern for others in all their needs. Increase your love in us; that the light of Jesus will shine on each member so that all will come to know you through this care.

Father, we pray for all GFS members, their family and friends, for those known and not known to us. We pray especially for Val Gribble – GFS World President, her Council and Chaplains; and for the leadership of the GFS world-wide. Strengthen the society to carry forward the work of GFS, in truth and in love. We pray especially for direction, protection, provision and spiritual uplift for

a successful conference in 2017. Help us to “Bear one another’s burdens”; and grant that our objectives may be achieved through your holy name, that we may serve Christ in each other and love as he has loved us. Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Reader 5** (Prayer for unity)

We pray most merciful Father for world peace so that nations may experience your blessings in peaceful coexistence. Let your peace and love to reign among us; for the wellbeing of our families, friends, neighbours and all who support and/or serve through this Society. Father we pray for those who have lost you; that they may repent and know the truth in Christ. Help us to forgive our enemies, persecutors and oppressors; turn their hearts away from evil so that more people may be led to the knowledge of you and to the service of your kingdom. Lord God, bind us together with your cord of love, as your body, your Church, your people; reconciled, healed, forgiven, sharing you with others as you have called us to do.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Reader 6** (Prayer for the faithfully departed)

Father, you hear those who pray in the name of your Son, grant that what we have asked in faith, we may obtain according to your will.

And now O Father, hear us as we remember those who have died in the peace of Christ, especially the Founder, Mrs Mary Elizabeth Townsend and all the faithfully departed who contributed to uphold GFS worldwide; those who have confessed the faith, and those whose faith is known to you alone, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom. We remember

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

**Merciful Father, accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:**

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. AMEN.

**8. Sharing of Peace**

*LEADER:* Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Jesus Christ said unto all that truly turn to him. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. While we have time, let us do good unto all men; especially unto them that are of the household of faith.”

The peace of Our Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**9. Preparation of the people**

**10. Offertory Hymn**

1. Master the tempest is raging  
The billows are tossing high  
The sky is o'er-shadowed with  
blackness  
No shelter or help is nigh  
Carest Thou not that we perish  
How canst thou lie asleep  
When each moment so madly is  
threatening  
A grave in the angry deep

*The winds and the waves shall obey  
thy will  
Peace ..... be still .....  
Whether the wrath of the storm-  
tossed sea  
Or demons, or men, or whatever it be  
No waters can swallow the ship  
where lies  
The master of ocean, and earth, and  
skies  
They all shall sweetly obey my will  
Peace be still! peace be still*

*They all shall sweetly obey my will  
Peace,! peace! Be still.*

I bow in my grief to-day  
The depths of my sad heart are  
troubled  
Oh, waken and save, I pray  
Torrents of sin and of anguish  
Sweep o'er my sinking soul  
And I perish, I perish dear Master  
Oh, hasten and take control.

2. Master, the terror is over  
The elements sweetly rest  
Earth's sun in the calm lake is  
mirrored  
And heaven's written my breast  
Linger, O blessed redeemer  
Leave me alone no more  
And with joy I shall make the blest  
harbor  
And rest on the blissful shore.

*(As the offertory hymn is sung, offerings can be collected or put in the offering box/plate)*

**11. Offertory prayer:**

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the Power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty, for everything in heaven and on earth is yours, all things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

**12. Great Thanksgiving**

**13. Communion Hymns: (a)**

1. God sent his Son, they called Him  
Jesus  
He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove my  
Saviour lives.

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds my future  
And life is worth the living just because  
He lives.*

2. How sweet to hold a new born baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days  
because He lives.

3. And then one day I'll cross the river;  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to  
victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know  
He lives.

### 13 (b)

1. Hear the blessed saviour calling the  
oppressed,  
O ye heavy laden come to me and rest  
Come no longer tarry,  
I your load will bear,  
Bring me every burden, bring me  
every care.  
*Come unto me ..., I ... will give you rest*  
*Take... my yoke upon ... you;*  
*Hear... me and be blest ...*  
*I am meek and lowly*  
*Come... and trust my might*  
*Come my yoke is easy ... and my*  
*burden's light*

Bring your case to Jesus He will  
give you rest.

3. Stumbling on the mountains dark  
with sin and shame,  
Stumbling toward the pit of hell's  
consuming flame  
By the powers of sin deluded and  
oppressed,  
Hear the tender Shepherd, come  
to me and rest.

2. Are you disappointed, wandering here  
and there  
Dragging chains of doubt and loaded  
down with care  
Do unholy feelings, struggle in your  
breast?

4. Have you by temptation of ten  
conquered been,  
Has a sense of weakness brought  
distress within  
Christ will sanctify you, if you'll  
claim his best  
In the Holy Spirit, he will give you  
rest.

### 14. Post Communion Sentences

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies, to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

### 15. LEADER: We all say together the GFS Prayer

O God our Father, we beseech thee to bless us and all who belong to the Girls Friendly Society. Help us to bear one another's burdens, to live not for ourselves but for others, as members of one family in Jesus Christ. Cleanse us from all our sins, make us pure and holy by the indwelling of your Spirit, and bring us all to the joy of your heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

### 16. Blessing and Dismissal

**PRIEST:** God give you grace to follow Michael and all Angels in faith and hope and love; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

**LEADER: Go in peace and serve the Lord.**

Response: In the name of Christ. Amen.

**17. Final Hymn**

1. God is here and that to bless us  
With the Spirit's quickening power  
See the cloud already bending  
Waits to drop the grateful shower.

*Let it come... O Lord, we pray thee  
Let the shower... of blessing fall  
We are waiting, we are waiting  
Oh revive the hearts of all.*

2. Good is here we feel his presence  
In this consecrated place  
But we need the soul refreshing  
Of his free unbounded grace.

3. God is here: oh then believing  
Bring to him our one desire  
That his love may now be kindled  
Till its flame each heart inspired.