

Girls' Friendly Society- World Day of Prayers 2020

St Michael and All Angels

29th September 2020



All Saints Cathedral Yambio

**The Theme of the Day: Admit, Confess, Repent from our sins,
and seek the face of our God. Amen (2 Chronicles 7:14).**

Prepared by GFS South Sudan, Western Equatoria Internal Province

The Diocese of Yambio.

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Brief Information of South Sudan

South Sudan is a landlocked Country in Northeast Africa, it covers a length of roughly 3,740 miles, and it borders six countries, these are the Central African Republic to the west, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda to the South, Kenya and Ethiopia to the East, and Sudan to the North.

Background and Context of GFS worldwide

The Girls Friendly Society (GFS) began in England in 1875 during the Industrial Revolutions, where many girls and young women were moving to the Industrial towns to work, most them were exploited, and working in very difficult conditions. GFS is a generous Christian organization worldwide, which gives hope for the future of our girls and young women. The society was established in England by Elizabeth Townsend with the blessings of the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is within the Anglican Communion. It is a society established with the aim of offering the spiritual, physical and friendly support through Christian values and specially to minimize the early pregnancies, and reduce the range of girls drop out from school, and encourage them to finish their high school.

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

Girls Friendly Society in the Republic of South Sudan was started in 2018 in the diocese of Nzara where I was the Mothers Union President of the diocese. It is now in the diocese of Yambio as well where we have moved to Western Equatoria Internal Provincial Headquarters. It is gradually moving to the other dioceses in the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. GFS has a great role to play in addressing the SGBV issues in a post war situation as well as many girls are traumatized in this country.

The Republic of South Sudan

The Republic of South Sudan came out of the Republic of Sudan after 6 decades of two civil wars, where 2.5 million were killed and 4 million took refuge in the neighbouring countries and many more other internally displaced people. In 2005 a Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed. Six years later a referendum was done and South Sudan seceded from Sudan in 2011. Everybody was happy. This happiness was not long lived. We thought at last we have overcome the years of civil wars, conflicts and chaos after a hard won independence through referendum, unfortunately South Sudan found itself in whirl wins of further turmoil, destruction, and displacement and revenge killings. Only two years into the independence a bad civil war erupted which proved to be worse than the first two civil wars. Many South Sudanese were killed in a very short period. Children have been taught the culture of violence, either as a means of survival or simply as the environment in which they grew up. They experience the impact of violence, death, property destruction, rape, looting and other forms of human right abuses.

It is a great joy to thank God and the worldwide GFS President for admitting South Sudan to the membership of GFS, and to make it possible for us to form first GFS in the dioceses of Nzara and Yambio in the Republic of South Sudan, and this was made by Hon. Amb. Mama Aida Wande Peni who is a South Sudan GFS National President, and after my husband, The Most. Rev. Canon Dr Samuel Enosa Peni was again called to become the Diocesan Bishop of Yambio Diocese, and the Archbishop of Western Equatoria Internal Province, Mama Aida Peni managed to form GFS in Yambio Diocese (Now three Parishes) and it will gradually expand and cover South Sudan as a whole. Archbishop Peni is a good supporter of GFS.

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 up your voice to the Lord (x2)

Today will be a joyful day;

Lift up 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 thanks giving, 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.

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The Bible tells us not 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 kept

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 powers, and glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Leader: O' Lord open our lips

All: And our mouth 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 103: 19 – 22

The Lord has established his throne in Heaven,

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And his Kingdom rules over all.
Praise the Lord, you his angels,
You mighty ones who do his binding,
Who obey his word
Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts,
You his servants who do his will.
Praise the Lord, all his works
Everywhere in his dominion.
Praise the Lord, O my soul.

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

People sit for the readings

The Ministry of the Word

Old Testament

Genesis 28: 10 – 17.

Jacob's dream at Bethel

Jacob left Beersheba and sat out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun has 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 lying. 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

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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 the 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’s 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

Living below in this old sinful world
Hardly a comfort would afford;
Striving alone to face temptation sore
Where could I go but to the lord?

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*Where could I go, O' where could I go,
Seeking a refugee for my soul?
Needing a friend to help me in the end
Where could I go but to the Lord?*

Neighbours are kind I love them every one
We get along in sweet accord
But when my soul needs manna from above
Where could I go but to the Lord

Life here is grand with friends I love so dear
Comfort I get from God's word
Yet when I face the chilling end of death
Where could I go but to the Lord?

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

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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: Admit, Confess, Repent from our sins, and seek the face of our God. Amen (2 Chronicles 7:14).

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 mortars; mercifully grant us that, as your holy angels ways

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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

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unfaithfulness, rejuvenate them and those facing separation, and reunite them in your love;

Those struggling with drug 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 the incoming GFS President. All national GFS Presidents, we pray for GFS Chaplains and the entire GFS members. May your grace be with all the bishops who support and encourage the ministry of GFS in their dioceses, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

8. Prayers for COVID -19 Pandemic

We beseech you o' Lord to heal the world from the pandemic of the Corona- Virus. We submit the souls of all who passed away from the pandemic and from other diseases. We are sad to have missed GFS Council 2020, because of the pandemic. We now ask you to bless the plans for GFS world council of 2021. We ask all these in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, **Amen**.

The Leader:

O' God our Lord, You have promised that when two or more 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 passes 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 service¹.

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¹ The bible passages is from NIV and some of the liturgy is taken from the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, Modern Service Book, 2018.