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Suffering and Survival - The Netherlands, 1940-1945: In Commemoration (A Commemorative Service)

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Suffering and Survival— The Netherlands, 1940-1945: In Commemoration

A Commemorative Service

We Gather in God's Presence

Reader: Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth take their stand
and the rulers gather together against the Lord
and against his Anointed One.
“Let us break their chains,” they say,
“and throw off their fetters.”

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;
The Lord scoffs at them.
Then he rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.
Therefore, you kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.”

Psalm 2: 1-6, 10-11

All sing: Psalm 68: “Let God Arise and by His Might” *Psalter Hymnal* 68
v. 1, 4 *Genevan* 68

Prayer: Our Father, we have gathered to remember and to be healed of our
memories, to forgive and to be forgiven, to mourn and to be renewed.
Father, who holds all our tears in vials, hear our lament. O Father,
against whom we all have sinned, forgive us. O Lord of creation and re-
creation, heal and restore us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To Acknowledge Pain and Suffering

Solo: Out of the Depths of Sadness

PH 130
Genevan 130

This service flanked the talk of Rev. Tamminga found on page 40. The litanies were written by Mike Vanden Bosch. The service was prepared by Karen DeMol. It was held on Saturday, September 29, 1990, in the Dordt College Chapel.

Readings from the Psalms: Lament and Trust

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
O Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?
They have greatly oppressed me from my youth.
Plowmen have plowed my back,
and have made their furrows long.

Keep me safe, O God,
for in you I take refuge.

Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak
who are caught in the schemes he devises.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

He lies in wait near the villages;
from ambush he murders the innocent,
watching in secret for his victims.
He lies in wait like a lion in cover;
he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net.
His victims are crushed, they collapse;
they fall under his strength.
He says to himself, "God has forgotten";
he covers his face and never sees."

But you, O God, do see trouble and grief;
you consider it to take it in hand.
The victim commits himself to you;
you are the helper of the fatherless.

O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,
for with the Lord is unfailing love,
and with him is full redemption.
He himself will redeem Israel.

The Lord is righteous;
he has cut me free from the cords of the wicked.
You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted;
you encourage them, and you listen to their cry.

Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God,
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Psalms 10, 43, 129, 130

All sing: Psalm 124: "If God the Lord Were Not Our Constant Help"
v. 1

PH 124
Genevan 124

To Forgive and to be Forgiven

Leader: Hear now the words of Jesus: "I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. But love your enemies, do good to them. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

Luke 6: 27-28, 32-33, 35-36

Solo: "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive"
v. 1, 2

PH 266

A Litany: Forgiving

Leader: Lord, the wounds of the war fester until you heal them.

All: Sooth us with the salve of your grace.

Leader: Where wounds are reopened today, sooth with the salve of your grace.

All: Lord, help us to love our neighbor, as you taught us.

Leader: Lord, help us to love our enemies, as you taught us.

All: Lord, help us to love our neighbor, the Jew.

Leader: Lord, help us to love and forgive our neighbor, the Nazi.

All: Lord, help us to love and forgive our neighbor, the collaborator.

Leader: "If you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

All: "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me: up to seven times?"

Leader: Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

All: Lord, we cannot forgive except you help us.

Leader: If anyone here today has not forgiven one Nazi,

All: touch his heart with your Holy Spirit of love.

Leader: If anyone here today has not forgiven one collaborator,

All: touch her heart with your Holy Spirit of love.
Leader: If anyone here harbors one drop of guilt like an ulcer in his heart,
All: lead him to bring his guilt to the cross of Jesus.
Leader: Do not let the clock strike midnight before we have brought our hatred
and our guilt to the cross.

All sing: "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive" PH 266
v. 3, 4

To be Healed through the Grace of Christ

Leader: Come, you disconsolate, where'er you languish,
come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here bring your wounded hearts, here tell your anguish,
earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal.

Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,
hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure;
Here speaks the Comforter, in mercy saying,
"Earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot cure."

Thomas Moore

All sing: "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" PH 194
v. 1, 3 Genevan 42

A litany: The Power of Christ for Healing

Reader: The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

All: He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives,
and release for the prisoners,

Reader: to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

All: and provide for those who grieve in Zion
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,

Reader: the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

All: They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

Isaiah 61: 1-3

All sing: Psalm 116: "I Love the Lord" PH 116
v. 1 Genevan 116

“The Untimeliness of the Second World War” Rev. Louis Tamminga
(See Page 40)

All sing: “We Praise You, O God”
v. 1, 2, 3

PH 237
Netherlands tune

To be Encouraged by a Vision of the New Jerusalem

Reader: You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.
Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord’s renown,
for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed.

Leader: In the last days the mountain of the Lord’s temple will be
established as chief among the mountains;
it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

All: Many peoples will come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.”

Leader: He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

All: Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

Leader: Every man will sit under his own vine
and under his own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

All: The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

Leader: They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 55: 12-13; Micah 4:1-4; Isaiah 11:6, 9

Reader: Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will
not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice
forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my
people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.

Isaiah 65:17-19

Solo: "Then I Saw a New Heaven and Earth
v. 1, 2, 5

PH 236

Reader: I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Revelation 7: 9-10

All sing: "By the Sea of Crystal"
v. 1, 2, 3

PH 620

A Doxology

Leader: Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

All: These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord himself has spoken.

Leader: He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

People: Amen! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Isaiah 52:9-10; Revelation 22: 6, 20