

## Greenbank Weekly Update – Friday, April 10, 2020

Is anyone in need? Please contact the church office, and we will find a way to assist you. Office contact info: [office@greenbankcoc.org](mailto:office@greenbankcoc.org) or 302-994-3800. Office hours: MWF 9-3

### Reflection: Finding Blessing in Isolation by Rory Irwin

As we draw close to Easter, and we continue to practice social distancing, it is easy to start feeling the isolation from family, friends, and the things we normally do. After working non-stop for several weeks, there are definitely days that I feel isolated.

As I've been reflecting on God's word during this time, I have specifically looked at scriptures about separation from God. I recently read an article that focused on Matthew 27:46 that piqued my curiosity about this concept of being separated from God. As I've studied this verse more closely, I have begun to understand the depth of the isolation, and the longing for restoration with God, that Jesus must have experienced as he died on the cross.

*“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!’ That is to say, ‘My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?’” (Matthew 27:46)*

Indeed, Jesus uttered these words to fulfill what was written in Psalm 22:1:

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?”*

I challenge you to find a scripture, other than this one, where Jesus refers to God as “My God.” Jesus usually rereferred to God as “Father,” but here He cried out moments before His last breath, “My God, My God!” Until that moment, God and Jesus had never been separated. Even through the beatings and humiliation leading to the cross Jesus still felt His Father's presence. But here, as he battled for his life, He felt the separation, the isolation, from His Father as the sins of all mankind were laid on Him.

Understanding why Jesus had to suffer and die gives us a better perspective on why Jesus used, “My God” in this passage rather than “Father” as He normally would have. It was God who “... delivered... Jesus... to death for our sins...” (Romans 4:25). “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

It had always been God's plan for His Son to die for our sins. In that moment, Jesus did not have the same relationship with the Father. Because of the presence of sin, the Father had to turn away from the Son. But the good news, the Gospel if you will, is that Jesus was still the Son of God. Jesus was still the Savior whom God would raise from the dead. During that separation, God still loved Jesus as He loves us now. Jesus allowed the sin of man to separate Him from God so we would not have to suffer the same isolation.

As we continue this “social distancing,” please be encouraged by the fact that Jesus truly understands our needs and provides a path forward. If you are struggling with isolation, cry out to God. Ask Him to be with you and comfort you. And remember, one day soon, Jesus will return to bring all of us home to be with Him and the Father forever.

### Prayer & Praise

**Nyah-Shae Wallace:** protection of health; someone on her ship tested positive for COVID-19.

**Billy Holland's brother** had a stroke.

**Tabitha Hucker Grooms** (former member) is ill with symptoms similar to COVID-19, but she tested negative.

**Relief from the COVID-19 pandemic.** Slow the spread. Please stay home.

**Essential Workers:** Doctors, nurses, law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, postal & transit, grocers, etc.

**Business Owners & Employees:** that businesses will be able to recover from the shutdown.

**Our Government Leaders** who are working around the clock to find ways to bring relief.

The most recent requests are listed above. If you have an item for prayer or praise, please email it to [office@greenbankcoc.org](mailto:office@greenbankcoc.org) for inclusion in our weekly list. To view previous prayer requests and those on our ongoing lists, please visit the Weekly Bulletins page on our website [www.greenbankcoc.org](http://www.greenbankcoc.org).

## **Announcements**

### **Good Friday Service Opportunities:**

Every week we take time to remember Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection when we participate in the Lord's Supper. In the spring of each year, we come to a time of deeper focus on Jesus' death on the cross for the sins of the world, and gloriously, His resurrection from the dead. We invited you to join us **Tonight at 8:00 pm** for an online service that will encourage our faith as we walk with Jesus to his crucifixion and burial on Good Friday and anticipate His resurrection on Easter Sunday. To participate, see our connection options below.

The Newark church is also having an online service **tonight at 7:00 p.m.** To participate, click on this link: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2itNvBac5n3RzGqe9ueCgg?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2itNvBac5n3RzGqe9ueCgg?view_as=subscriber)



### **Streaming Free: Easter Weekend Only!**

Sight & Sound theatres has announced that their production, JESUS, will be made available for FREE in celebration of Easter. For three days only, experience the greatest rescue story of all time as it comes to life right in your living room. **Exclusively available on TBN, watch it on your favorite device by downloading the TBN app, or stream it online: April 10-12 only!**

**Online Bible Study:** Boyd Reed is hosting an online study of the Gospel of John. Passages are posted weekly along with questions to prompt discussion. You can access the lessons at any time convenient for you, read other's comments, and post questions or comments you have for each lesson. Access the lessons here: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NjUyNzlyMTI2MTda> **Class code: 7s2upmd**

**Food Pantry:** Closed until further notice. We will not re-open until restrictions on large groups are lifted.

## **Connect with Us Online**

**Options for Connecting to Sunday Worship (10:30 a.m.) & Wednesday Bible Study (7:00 p.m.)**

**PLEASE NOTE: You do NOT need to have a Facebook account to view the live feed through our website.**

1) **Facebook Live:** <http://www.facebook.com/greenbankchurchofchrist>

2) **Greenbank website:** [www.greenbankcoc.org](http://www.greenbankcoc.org) Click on the Facebook Live tab on the menu bar at the top of the page.

3) **Conference call:** Dial +1 (646) 749-3122 Enter Access Code 947 684 973#

## **Options for Giving**

**If you are able to & desire to maintain regular giving:**

1) **Write a check** and mail to 511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, DE 19808, or hold all checks until we begin meeting again.

2) **Cash givers** can set aside your contributions and bring them when we begin meeting again.

3) **Online giving:** A PayPal option has been set up on our website [www.greenbankcoc.org](http://www.greenbankcoc.org). Click on the “Donate” button and follow the instructions. (Note: there is a small fee assessed from each donation.)

**Last Week’s Contribution: \$5,870**

**Weekly Average: \$4,307**