

Where's Your Chair?

Ruth 4 13-21



Children are a heritage from the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his gift.
Psalm 127:4

Praising:

Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and
voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

Reading:

Ruth 4:13-21
Ruth's child

In the spiritual understanding of the day, Naomi's widowhood and the loss of her sons without grandchildren might have been publicly perceived as a divine judgment upon her. However events now turn. Members of Naomi's Bethlehem community begin to recognize that the Lord

is responsible for bringing her situation to a happy conclusion. They are ready to praise the foreigner Ruth for the love she has shown to Naomi, describing her as worth more than seven sons! Ruth's son Obed is destined to become the grandfather of King David. The New Testament (Matthew 1 and Luke 3) includes Obed among the ancestors of Jesus. The story of Ruth affirms not only that a non-Israelite can become a faithful worshipper of the Lord, but that the Lord's concern extends beyond the people of Israel to people of every nation.

Listening:

Praying:

We think Lord of those who brought us into the world

- who hoped and longed for us, who loved and cared for us, who nurtured and raised us
- who prayed for us, prayed with us and introduced us to the Good Shepherd
- who instilled in us a sense of worship and witness, of service and sacrifice

Father: so many different people have made me the person I am, but I pray for the part that is mine to play, the choices and decisions which determine how faithful I am to you. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 18 March 2016