

# Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 7 61-73



Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.  
Psalm 95:6-7

## **Praising:**

In Christ, our humble head, we meet, and long to be a loving people, wisely led, forgiving, strong and free. Our walls of soaring stone, and tales of old renown, can send us out and spur us on, or drag and weigh us down.

## **Reading:**

Nehemiah 7:61-73  
At the end of the list

The numbers come to around 50,000 people. The end of the list finds a place for those of dubious genealogy and even animals. Care is taken to ensure that the ritual purity of the priestly families is preserved. When there is less than certainty over a person's claim to be part of the holy line, no risk is taken. Once the census is rounded off, formal note is also

made of the fact that certain families have donated financially and in other ways to the project. Gold, silver, temple furnishings and priestly robes are all mentioned. The point is not to broadcast the generosity of the donors but to record what has been given and by whom. All that now remains is for everyone to settle in to their new homes and roles in the newly restored city and temple.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Whoever we are Lord, you find a place for us

- in your house of prayer, somewhere to adore you in worship and hear your holy voice
- in your family of faith, somewhere to serve and grow with others who trust in Christ
- in your world of spiritual hunger, somewhere to share our experience of Jesus' love

Father: there is somewhere for me to fit, somewhere for me to belong, somewhere for me to feel cared for and valued and useful. And in your Spirit, that place is here and it is now. Amen

## **Doing:**

Tuesday, 27 September 2016