

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 8 1-12



Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness
and your law is the truth.
Psalm 119:142

Praising:

We turn to Christ anew who hear his call today, his way to walk, his will pursue, his word obey.

To serve him as our king and of his kingdom learn, from sin and every evil thing to him we turn.

Reading:

Nehemiah 8:1-12

The reading of the book of the law

The people assemble at the Water Gate and construct a raised platform so that when Ezra arrives to read they can both see and hear him. The fact that it takes place first thing in the morning and that the people are already gathered, suggests planning. Before opening the

book, the people stand formally and reverently. When Ezra blesses the Lord, the people echo his praise and bow in humility. Those standing with Ezra translate the Hebrew words of the law into the more familiar Aramaic. But they also convey their sense and meaning. The grief of the listeners suggests lamentation for the old temple that has been lost, but also that God's word is convicting the people of their sin. However Nehemiah and Ezra insist this should not be a day of mourning but of feasting. This is restoration.

Listening:

Praying:

When we come to listen to your word Lord

- we ask for ears to hear what you are saying to our hearts by your Spirit
- we ask for a clear sense of the ways in which we have fallen short of your will
- we ask for joy to embrace the forgiveness Christ has won for us at Calvary

Father: when I find myself surfing over Scripture or skimming lightly through it, pull me up and stop me short, to read as though you are writing directly to me. Which you are. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 28 September 2016