

Where's Your Chair?

St Philip the Deacon



Your testimonies have I claimed as my heritage for ever;
for they are the very joy of my heart.
Psalm 119:111

Praising:

Now we rejoice to name him
King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we
proclaim;
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Reading:

Acts 8:26-40
Philip preaches in Samaria

It's the road from Jerusalem via Bethlehem and Hebron which joins the main road to Egypt. Philip is offered a ride by an official whom some describe as the Candace's Chancellor of the Exchequer. He has been to Jerusalem to worship. People wary of a multiplicity of gods and the loose morals of the nations headed for Jerusalem because it was the home of Judaism. Some converted and were circumcised

and became proselytes, others remained God-fearers. Whichever the eunuch was, the Isaiah passage he is reading concerns a figure who is suffering humiliation and injustice. Philip applies this prophecy to the life and death of Jesus and the eunuch asks to be baptized. By tradition, the eunuch returns to Ethiopia and evangelises his own country. True or not, his joy suggests he didn't keep his new found happiness to himself.

Listening:

Praying:

Help us to trust that it really can be that simple

- that all people everywhere are searching for God, whether they realise it or not
- that through Scripture the Holy Spirit still opens minds and touches hearts for Christ
- that our own transforming experience of Jesus' love is a story waiting to be told

Father: from the self-consciousness and fear that so often hold me back from talking about Jesus, bring me to the joy that says I'm free, I'm forgiven and I'm yours for ever and ever.
Amen

Doing:

Tuesday, 09 October 2016