Where's Your Chair?

Christmas Eve

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king.
Psalm 96:10

Praising:

On Christmas night
all Christians sing,
to hear the news
the angels bring,
news of great joy,
news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Reading:

Luke 2:1-14
The birth of Jesus

Saviour, Messiah, Lord. All the ancient Jewish titles are here. Like every other Jew in the first century, the shepherds trust the words of the prophets. There would be one to come, that's what they promised, a rescuer who would vanquish the foes of Israel and restore the kingdom for God's chosen people. Bethlehem fitted. An angelic visitation fitted too – though it must have left them speechless. But a stable didn't fit. A Messiah born in a stable certainly didn't. And just who were these parents? Doubtless the shepherds faced questions and doubts about what they experienced that night for the rest of their lives. They may have doubted it themselves sometimes. Yet the birth of that child with all its mysterious circumstances had touched them – as we must allow his life and death to touch us.

Listening:

Praying:

We take a moment of peace

- as the busyness and pressure of preparing for Christmas draws to an end
- as our thoughts turn to Bethlehem, the stable and what happened that night
- as the simple wonder of Jesus' birth calls us to be still and know that he is God

Father: as I reach the point today when there is nothing left to do, come to me as Christ came to the shepherds, a moment when nothing else in the world seemed real or important. Amen

Doing: