

Where's Your Chair?

Philippians 1 1-11



Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say always, 'Great is the Lord!'
Psalm 70:4

Praising:

We are the fam'ly of God. We are the promise divine.

We are God's chosen desire. We are the glorious new wine.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, O Lord bind us together with love.

Reading:

Philippians 1:1-11

Grace to you

The Christian community at Philippi in northern Greece was the first church established by St Paul in Europe. The warmth of Paul's greeting makes it clear that he had a close and happy relationship with the believers there but really that is an understatement. Paul speaks of

feeling held in the collect heart of the Christians in Philippi. He also has this strong sense that in spite of the miles between them and their very different situations, they are bound together by the grace of God. It's easy to think we are reading about far off spiritual times, when things were purer and simpler. Yet in every age, if Christians do not have the grace of God in common they have absolutely nothing. It is our link to God and to one another. And it's what gives us life.

Listening:

Praying:

We pray for our fellowship with other Christians

- those we will never meet but whose praise and prayer mingles with ours before God
- those who have gone before us in love and faith and hope over 2000 years
- those for whom worship and witness are so much more costly than they are for us

Father: I ask for an ever deeper experience of your amazing grace and, with it, an ever deeper connection to those who follow Christ in every place and every age. Amen

Doing:

Thursday, 18 February 2016