

# Where's Your Chair?

Philippians 1 12-18



'Listen to my cry, for I am brought very low;  
save me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.'  
Psalm 142:6

## **Praising:**

Now with gladness, now with  
courage,  
bear the burden on thee laid,  
that hereafter these thy labours  
may with endless gifts be paid,  
and in everlasting glory  
thou with brightness be arrayed.

## **Reading:**

Philippians 1:12-18  
My imprisonment

In case we had missed it in the opening verses, St Paul underlines that he is writing these words from prison. Under military guard, all the members of the local headquarters where Paul is being held are fully aware that he is in custody for preaching the Christian faith. With not a hint of irony and certainly not through gritted teeth, arrest for Paul is a genuine cause for rejoicing. It

means that the soldiers keeping watch over him have at least heard the name of Christ. Not only that, but from a distance Paul's brother and sister believers have drawn courage and confidence from his plight. If Paul has not been afraid to bear witness to Jesus, even to the point of being imprisoned for doing so, nor will they be afraid to bear witness.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We think of those persecuted or even imprisoned for their Christian faith

- believers in countries where there is hatred for and hostility to the name of Christ
- those who suffer violence, abuse or discrimination rather than deny Jesus
- mission agencies working covertly to bring the word to those who have yet to hear it

Father: when I feel shy about speaking the name of Jesus, remind me that even prison has never silenced Christ's followers, it has only freed them to proclaim his truth more loudly. Amen

## **Doing:**

Friday, 19 February 2016