

Where's Your Choir?

Acts 4 23-37



Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity.
Psalm 133:1

Praising:

Help us to help each other, Lord, each other's cross to bear; let us our friendly aid afford and show our loving care.

Reading:

Acts 4:23-37

The Christians respond

The response of the apostles and their supporters to the council's request to stop proclaiming Jesus is twofold. First come worship and prayer. Instead of covering in some spiritual corner, they pour out their praise to God with raw emotion. They ask for more passion in their preaching, and more signs and wonders to prove that God's kingdom has indeed come in power. Next comes a decision to live as a caring and sharing Christian community in a

way that has proved a model for believers ever since. This type of communal living was only practised in Jerusalem, and only for a time. Yet it lives on as a radical challenge for the followers of Jesus in every age. All told, if the Jewish authorities' intention was to make these Christians quietly disappear, they go the wrong way about it.

Listening:

Praying:

Father hear our prayer for your Church throughout the world

- that we may be shaken by your Spirit as we worship and witness to your love
- that your transforming power and grace might be evident in all we say and do
- that we may live with hearts and hands open to the needs of all around us

Father: whenever I get slapped down for you, I stay down. I say: I tried and I failed and that's that. Show me what will happen if, just once, I get up and have another go. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 15 April 2016