

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 11 19-29



Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous.  
Psalm 112:4

## **Praising:**

Refuge from cruel wars, havens  
from fear,  
cities for sanctu'ry, freedoms to  
share.

Peace to the killing fields,  
scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness, his cross  
for the pain.

## **Reading:**

Acts 11:19-29  
The Church at Antioch takes  
shape

Persecution in Jerusalem led many believers to flee, not just the city but the country. But as they scattered so they preached, with many Jews and Greeks responding to the good news of Jesus. A lively new community now emerges in Antioch in Syria, the third largest city of the Roman Empire. Known up to this point as

'Followers of the Way', it's at Antioch that the believers are first called "Christians". They receive a visit from Barnabas who has been sent by the Church in Jerusalem to confirm reports of rapid growth in numbers. Barnabas is so overjoyed and encouraged that he goes to Tarsus to fetch Saul, and together they teach in Antioch for a whole year. But it's not just teaching. When Agabus prophesies the famine, the Christians immediately start working on an aid plan!

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Build your Church Lord, by your Spirit at work in the world

- to proclaim the living Lord Jesus afresh to each new generation
- to grow ever deeper in spiritual knowledge and understanding
- to continue the ministry of care that seeks out those in need

Father: thank you for the name 'Christian'. Though I will never live up to it, give me the courage not to renounce it, and the love to suffer whatever insults bearing it may bring. Amen

## **Doing:**

Tuesday, 17 May 2016