

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 16 1-15



Alleluia. How good it is to make music for our God,
how joyful to honour him with praise.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.
Psalm 147:1-2

Praising:

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving, holy dove,
speed on your flight!
Move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!

Reading:

Acts 16:1-15
Timothy joins Paul and Silas

Paul has just won a battle to declare circumcision unnecessary for Gentiles. Obviously since Timothy is a Jew there would seem to be no controversy or inconsistency in his being circumcised. As they travel from church to church, Paul and Silas are shaping and moulding the new spiritual communities along the lines specified by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. Having

been guided away from Asia and Bithynia, a vision seen by Paul guides them instead towards Macedonia. On arrival at the Roman colony of Philippi, the missionaries look for the place of prayer on the Sabbath. Whether it's an open-air river-side scene or whether this is the location of an actual synagogue, their encounter with the prominent business woman Lydia opens up a whole new phase of ministry – as well as providing the missionaries with somewhere to stay.

Listening:

Praying:

We pray Lord for a spirit of welcome and hospitality

- to greet every stranger or new arrival as if they were Christ himself
- to receive people in our homes and churches with generous hearts and open hands
- to accept Christian kindness and courtesy when other people offer it to us

Father: I thank you for the warmth and friendship so many of your followers have shown to me. Grant me the care and consideration always to show the same and more to others. Amen

Doing:

Thursday, 02 June 2016