

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 8 13-18



For in the day of trouble he shall hide me in his shelter;
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me
and set me high upon a rock.

Psalm 27:6

Praising:

Safe in the shadow of the Lord
beneath his hand and power,
I trust in him, I trust in him,
my fortress and my tower.

Reading:

Nehemiah 8:13-18
Keeping the feast of booths

As the heads of the clans make a closer study of the law, they become aware that the month in which they are gathered is actually the time prescribed for the festival of booths. Through the years of exile this annual commemoration of God leading Israel out from Egypt to camp in tents in the wilderness has been forgotten. Some booths are domestic appearing on the roofs of houses, while others at the Water Gate and in some of the squares are communal. Having

been in mourning the previous day, the hastily revived festival of booths begins a week of celebration. The words of the law are read and everyone gathers at the end for a formal spiritual assembly. The people do not need persuading to reconnect with worshipping God in the time-honoured ways they had all been used to.

Listening:

Praying:

We bring to mind Lord the times when you have delivered and protected us

- when we have felt cornered and powerless and somehow you have set us free
- when we have felt engulfed and bowed down and somehow you have lifted our spirits
- when we have felt without choices and options and somehow you have given us a future

Father: lead me to a clearer sense of how often I fail to follow your holy will and purpose. For only when I see my need of your mercy, can your love and new life start to flow into me. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 30 September 2016