

Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 12 1-26



His foundation is on the holy mountains.
The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
Psalm 87:1

Praising:

These have come out of the hardest oppression; now they may stand in the presence of God, serving their Lord day and night in his temple, ransomed and cleansed by the Lamb's precious blood.

Reading:

Nehemiah 12:1-26
The city repopulated

In this appendix to the census lists, Nehemiah names the priests who will lead the worship and present the offerings to God on behalf of the people. Evidently there is a hierarchy to the priesthood, with some more senior priests assuming positions of leadership over their more junior colleagues. The reference

to singing gives the impression that some of the Levites had a specific responsibility for music in the temple. The suggestion is that at least one element of this sung worship is 'antiphonal' in style. It describes some singers ranked on one side and others being ranked opposite them, to sing responses to one another. Also identified towards the end of the list are the people who will stand guard at the storehouses by the gates, presumably to keep watch over the treasury and those coming and going from worship.

Listening:

Praying:

As we think Lord of your house of prayer St Columbanus we hold before you

- those who lead, preach, teach and celebrate the sacraments
- those who play, sing and stir our hearts to praise and thanksgiving
- those who meet, greet and welcome and who care for our buildings and property

Father: prepare me for worship as Sunday comes around each week. Help me to stop, to name my sins, to clear my head and to open my heart to receive Christ's word of love. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 12 October 2016