

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway Stavanger Congregation



Stavanger Anglicans' website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8466/>

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27 September 2026

17th Sunday after Trinity

Menighetshus, Rektor Steens gata 7: 10:30



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 17.1-7
Philippians 2.1-13
Matthew 21.23-32

Reflection

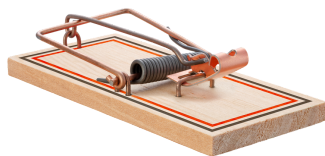
When the Question Is a Trap

Have you ever been asked a question where you immediately thought, "Wait a minute... there is no good answer to this!"?

Perhaps your spouse asks, "Do you notice anything different about me?"

Or a friend says, "Be honest, what do you really think of my new haircut?"

• And suddenly, you realise that this is not an ordinary question. This is a trick question!



WHEN THE QUESTION IS A TRAP

In today's Gospel, Jesus receives one of those questions.

The chief priests and elders ask Him, "By what authority are you doing these things?" It sounds like a reasonable question. But Jesus knows what is hiding underneath it. They are not genuinely looking for an answer. They are trying to trap Him.

So Jesus does something wonderfully clever. He asks them a question in return: "Where did John's baptism come from? Was it from heaven, or from human origin?"



Suddenly, the questioners are doing mental gymnastics! If they say “from heaven,” Jesus can ask why they did not believe John. If they say “from human origin,” they fear the crowd. So they eventually say, “We do not know.”

And Jesus basically responds, “Then I won’t answer your question either.”

There is something important here for us. Life will sometimes give us questions that are not really seeking truth. Some questions are designed to provoke us, embarrass us, manipulate us, or make us say something we will later regret.

And we do not have to answer every question immediately.

The Holy Spirit can give us something very precious: wisdom about when to speak, what to say, and sometimes when to remain silent.

Jesus does not become angry. He does not panic. He does not get drawn into an argument. He remains calm, thoughtful, and focused on the truth.



That is a good prayer for all of us: “Holy Spirit, give me wisdom before I open my mouth!”

Because sometimes our greatest spiritual achievement is not winning an argument. It is refusing to be trapped by one.

And then Jesus tells the story of the two sons. One says “No” but later changes his mind and obeys his father. The other says “Yes” but never goes.

Perhaps that is another little warning for us: God is less interested in impressive answers than in faithful actions.

So, when life throws a trick question at you, pause. Pray. Breathe. Ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom.

And remember: you don’t have to win every conversation. You just have to remain faithful to the truth and obedient to God. Amen.



Contacts and Connections



For pastoral needs,
Baptisms
Blessing of Civil
Marriages
Funerals
Please contact the
Assistant Chaplain

Father Martin

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Safeguarding concerns, workshops,
or Safe Church enquiries: Please
contact Jane, who will be happy to
assist.

Acts of Mercy - fundraising,
donations, or finances: contact Rumi

+4796837193

Email: talk2rumi@yahoo.com

For website enquiries, please contact Sarah +4798543363



COLLECT



Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



How to support Stavanger Congregation financially



- Register as a member. Membership forms are available at Church.



- Donate in the Sunday collection basket. Vipps #667359 Stavanger Anglicans.



- Give tax efficiently by donating directly to the main chaplaincy account:
Account number: 7029 05 14973
If you complete your personnummer on the form and donate annually 500–25,000 NOK, you will receive a tax rebate.



- Give directly through your bank to Stavanger Congregation:
Account number: 3201 08 90631



- Donate your time and skills.

YOU ARE INVITED

Tea & Fellowship

After the Service



Everyone is welcome!