

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway Stavanger Congregation



Stavanger Anglicans' website:

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

Stavanger Anglicans on Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/stavangeranglicans/>

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20 September 2026

16th Sunday after Trinity

Menighetshus, Rektor Steens gate 7: 10:30



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 16.2-15
Philippians 1.21-end
Matthew 20.1-16

Reflection

The Labourers in the Vineyard

There are some Bible stories that make us feel very comfortable. And then there is today's Gospel.

Jesus tells us about a landowner who hires workers throughout the day. Some start at dawn. Others arrive at nine, noon, three, and even five o'clock. At the end of the day, everyone gets paid the same amount.

Now, if you were one of those who had been working since breakfast, you might reasonably think, "Hang on a minute. I've been here all day, and that person has been here for one hour. Surely there's been an administrative error?"

It is, perhaps, the first recorded example of a church treasurer having a difficult conversation with the congregation.

But Jesus isn't really giving us advice about employment law. He is talking about the kingdom of heaven.



GOD'S GENEROSITY

The uncomfortable truth is that God's generosity does not operate according to our carefully constructed sense of fairness. We tend to keep score. We notice who has done the work, who has made the sacrifice, who has been faithful for years.

And rightly so: commitment matters. Turning up matters. Serving the church, caring for others, praying, giving, visiting, teaching, organising coffee rotas, these things matter.

But the danger comes when we quietly turn them into a spiritual spreadsheet.

'I've been a Christian for forty years.'

'I've been on the PCC since 1987.'

'I have endured seventeen consecutive parish suppers.'

Surely God owes me something extra?

Jesus says: No. The gift is the gift.

The people who arrived at the end of the day receive exactly the same generosity as those who arrived at the beginning. Not because their work was equally long, but because the landowner is generous.



And that is good news for all of us.

Because most of us, if we are honest, are both the people who have been working since dawn and the people who arrived late.

GRACE IS A GIFT

There are times when we have been faithful, and times when we have been distracted. Times when we have prayed fervently, and times when our prayer life has consisted largely of 'Help!' There are seasons when we have carried others, and seasons when others have carried us.

Yet God's grace is not a wage we earn. It is a gift we receive.

So perhaps the question this parable leaves us with is not, 'Is that fair?' It is: **Can we rejoice when God is generous to someone else?**

Because the kingdom of heaven is not a competition, and there is no heavenly league table.

There is simply the astonishing generosity of God, who keeps coming out into the marketplace, calling people home, even at the eleventh hour.

And for that, whether we arrived at dawn or five o'clock, we can all say:



Thanks be to God.



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

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
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.

Amen.



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.