The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway
Stavanger Congregation

Stavanger Anglicans' website:
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25 October 2026

Last Sunday after Trinity

Menighetshus Rektor Steens gata 7: 10:30

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deuteronomy 34.1-12
1 Thessalonians 2.1-8
Matthew 22.34-end

Reflection

Loving God and One Another

Imagine a small rural village in Zimbabwe, where families have lived for generations, guided by traditions passed down from their parents and grandparents. People depend on one another, respect their elders, and gather to support one another in times of joy and sorrow. These traditions give people identity, stability, and a sense of belonging.

Traditions are important because they remind us who we are and what is expected of us. But we must also ask: Do our traditions always bring people together, or can they sometimes become barriers that keep people apart?



Loving God and One Another

In today's Gospel, the Pharisees ask Jesus, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”. They want to test him and discover whether his teaching agrees with their understanding of the Jewish faith.

Jesus answers by quoting the Scriptures they know so well: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” He then adds, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself”

Jesus is not rejecting tradition. Instead, he takes his listeners to the very heart of their faith. He reminds them that all the commandments and teachings of Scripture depend on these two principles: love for God and love for our neighbour.

But who is our neighbour? In Jesus' time, people often made distinctions between those who belonged to their community and those considered outsiders. Some were welcomed, while others, such as tax collectors, Samaritans, and sinners, were often rejected.



Loving God and One Another

Jesus challenged these boundaries. Through his actions, he showed compassion to the sick, welcomed the excluded, and treated people with dignity regardless of their background.

This message is equally important for us in Stavanger. We come from different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. Some feel at home in our congregation, while others may feel lonely or uncertain about where they belong.

Loving our neighbour means welcoming newcomers, supporting those in need, listening to those who feel forgotten, and treating everyone with kindness and respect. It means looking beyond our differences and recognising the dignity of every person.

Our traditions remain valuable, but they must lead us towards greater love and compassion. We cannot claim to love God wholeheartedly while ignoring the needs of those around us.



Loving God and One Another

As members of Stavanger Congregation, let us build a community where everyone can experience God's love and find a sense of belonging.

As we leave worship today, let us ask ourselves two questions: How can I love God more wholeheartedly? And how can I show that love through the way I treat my neighbour?

May our traditions strengthen our faith, may our faith deepen our love, and may our love make Christ visible in the world.

For, as Jesus teaches us, the greatest commandments are to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Amen.



Contacts and Connections



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

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

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
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.

NOTICES

We are back at Menighetshus and we pay rentals. Our finances are not looking good may you please help us by donating through VIPPS #667359 or Bank Account Number 3201 08 90631



YOU ARE INVITED

Tea & Fellowship

After the Service



Everyone is welcome!