



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change
in Canada and around the world

Edmonton & Athabasca Diocese Alongside Hope Sunday

September 21, 2025

Thank you for joining in the 2025 Alongside Hope Sunday for Edmonton and Athabasca.

We have prepared the following service straight out of the BAS- but feel free to adapt the choice of hymns and the sermon to the needs of your own Parish.

Some resources should be winging their way to you to help support the service.

On behalf of Alongside Hope, Terry and myself- a big Thank You

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1. Opening Sentence

Proper 25 C: You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8.9.

2. Hymn #1

- Count Your Blessings, or
- Draw The Circle Wide

3. Gathering of the community

4. Glory to God

5. Collect.

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth, and ourselves in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever.

6. First Reading

OT Jeremiah 8.18 to 9.1

7. Psalm

Psalms 79, 1-9

8. Second Reading

NT 1 Timothy 2, 1-7

9. Children's Message

10. Hymn #2

- Here I am Lord, or
- One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All

11. Gospel

Gospel: Luke 16: 1-13. The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

12. Sermon

See Below

13. Apostles' Creed

14. Prayers of the People

15. Confessions and absolutions

16. The Peace

17. Hymn #3

- Make Me A Channel Of Your Peace, or
- Let There Be Light

18. Prayers over the Gifts

God of Power,

The glory of your works fills us with wonder and awe. Accept our offering this day and help us to live in peace and harmony with all your creation, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

19. Eucharist

20. Lords Prayer

21. Breaking of the Bread

22. Communion

23. Prayer after communion

Ruler of the universe, all creation yearns for its fulfilment in your Son. May we who have shared in holy things grow into maturity in him.

This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

24. Doxology

25. Blessing

26. Hymn #4

- Will You Come And Follow Me?, or
- For The Healing Of The Nations

27. Dismissal

Draft Alongside Hope Sermon (please free to adapt to your needs)

May the words on my lips and the meditation on my heart be acceptable to you my Lord.

Welcome to the 2025 Alongside Hope Sunday

First, I'd like to break down the Gospel

- A wealthy man believes his Estate Manager is mismanaging the estate's wealth, and threatens to release him from his employment
- The Estate Manager goes around the wealthy man's debtors to build bridges, and build friendships in case he is released from his employment
- He goes around reducing the debt owed to the landowner, in return for shelter should he need it
- He anticipated that the wealthy man would be livid at this activity, but he isn't
- In fact the landowner is pleased to see this good stewardship of his wealth, he is pleased to see that bridges have been built, and that his wealth has been used shrewdly

The parable focusses on a few key points:

The first discusses your worldly wealth: "Use your worldly wealth to gain friendships, so that when it has gone you will be welcomed into eternal life. If you have not been trustworthy handling worldly wealth who will trust you with true riches?"

The second point explains that you cannot serve both God and Money; "you justify yourself in the eyes of man, but God knows your heart. What is highly valued among men is detestable in Gods sight"

First, lets discuss what's meant by acting trustworthy with worldly wealth. Within the parable there is the wealthy man and his estate Manager. We need to see the wealthy man

as God- God provides- God is the source of our worldly wealth- our time, talents and treasures if you will.

We are the Estate Manager. And as such it is our responsibility to ensure that those gifts given to us by God are used wisely, and are pleasing in His sight.

Have we been good stewards of our time, our food, our resources, our land, our environment, our water, our wealth?

Have we been aware of the global consequences of our local actions?

Today nearly 1 in 3 children aged under 5 is malnourished,

Almost 2 billion people are lacking access to safe drinking water,

Approximately 100 million people are displaced, on the move, separated from home.

As one report noted: “there is more than enough food produced in the world to feed everyone on the planet, yet 733 million still go hungry”.

We can look at homelessness, emergency responses, access to medicine, access to water, access to justice and it is clear that collectively we haven’t been trustworthy in handling our worldly wealth. We have, in fact created “dishonest wealth”- or mammon.

But this also invites us to make changes; changes for an eternal reward, not an immediate reward- and this is where Alongside Hope comes in:

- Together with Kairos, Alongside Hope is raising awareness of the growing issue of international debt. As Kairos says “Debt cancellation and systematic financial reform are not just economic solutions; they are a moral imperative rooted in the theological principal of justice for all
- Alongside hope reaches out to communities trying to grow food in the face of climate change- and helping to feed the next generation of people in those communities
- Alongside Hope provides funding to people in Canada and around the world in need, in emergency situations

Today, Alongside Hope Sunday, I invite you think of this work as **your** work. This is how you are becoming a trustworthy steward of the resources that have been given to you; this is how You can help disrupt systems of exploitation and oppression that exist. This is how you can turn dishonest wealth into a more honest wealth.

Today, we invite you to be like the Estate Manager. To show compassion to those less fortunate.

Let us consider \$100

This can get you

- About ten trips to Tim Hortons, or 5 to a different coffee shop
- A new designer shirt, a new purse, half a new pair of shoes

- Four packs of cigarettes, or five bottles of wine
- One concert ticket
- Four people going to the movies
- One computer game

Now, by allowing Alongside Hope to allocate that same \$100, they can:

- Provide critical support for women and children escaping gender-based violence in Uganda
- Provides seeds and tools for vegetables and fruit in a Tanzanian refugee camp
- Help create sustainable water sources in Sri Lanka, and Kenya
- Support women's groups, and providing solar suitcases to midwives in rural Africa
- Work with the Canadian Foodgrains bank to help tackle global hunger

That's good stewardship.

The second point is very similar:

You cannot serve both God and Money.

“you justify yourself in the eyes of man, but God knows your heart. What is highly valued among men is detestable in Gods sight”

This gets to the heart of Jesus. To find heaven, to find our way forward, we would be better to serve the poor than buddying up to those that accumulate wealth, or even to compare ourselves in the measures of Man.

And, in a way, this explains the charities new name. From here-on we are ***Alongside Hope.***

Bringing hope to people in need around the world

- Serving people in conflict zones such as Gaza or the Ukraine
- Supporting those fleeing conflict in the Sudan and Ethiopia,
- Providing support to people in Canada following natural disasters
- Coming alongside farmers in Mozambique, South Sudan and Kenya
- Getting medicine to people in need in India
- Supporting adult literacy in Haiti
- Building women's groups in Myanmar and Nepal
- Giving indigenous groups a voice in Canada and the Americas

By supporting Alongside Hope we are becoming trustworthy stewards of the gifts that God has given to us. We are showing responsibility in our actions.

Our donations, our actions, our thoughts, our discussions, our awareness and our talents, by serving the poor are, in turn serving God.

Amen
