

**Alongside Hope Sunday**  
**September 20 2026**  
**For Edmonton and Athabasca Diocese**

We have pulled together a ***draft*** Alongside Hope service for you to use in your churches to raise awareness (and possible funding) on Sunday 20th September 2026.

Feel free to use, change or adapt as you deem appropriate for your Church and congregation.

Suggested hymns are also provided below.

Should you hold your Alongside Hope Sunday on a different day, drop Terry or Jeff a line if you would like help with writing a sermon for that specific week.

Our contact details are at the foot of the document.

Thank You

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**Alongside Hope Sunday- September 20, 2026**

Propers. P381, Year A:

*Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son*

First reading. Exodus, 16. 2-15

Psalms, BAS P845. 105, Verses 1-6, 37-45

Second reading. Philippians, 1. 21-30

Gospel reading. Matthew 20. 1-16

Sermon (for you to use or adapt)

First, let's recap the Gospel reading.

The landowner goes out in the morning to seek help in pulling in the harvest of the vineyard. He offers a day's wage to those that come and help.

He goes out at noon to get some more hired help. And then he goes out again in the evening to get some more hired help.

But here's the twist. He pays each worker the same amount.  
The labourers that put in two hours of work received the same amount as those that put in ten.

Resentment grew within the workers. Although those that worked all day received the agreed wage, they stood divided against those that had done only a few hours of work for the same pay. They complain "you have made them equal to us".

A scenario of "Them versus us" occurs.

A scenario of seniority, hierarchy, entitlement- a scenario by which some were worthy, and others were not.

The landowner responds "Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with that that I own?"

Like the landowner, God's gift to us remains just that- a Gift. Not an entitlement, or something to be earned. God's Gift and Blessing is available to all regardless of divisions and barriers established by people.

Alongside Hope understands this parable well  
It reaches out to those facing hunger across the world  
It reaches out to communities in war zones, or caught up in civil conflict  
It reaches out to those in drought, or those surviving floods  
It reaches out to those losing their livelihood and building afresh  
It reaches out to the marginalized, and those in crisis

Acknowledging that the gifts it offers are made through a living God- and that the gifts should be made available to those in need regardless of divisions made by our fellow humans.

It is God's Grace to Give, not God's Grace to be earned.

Through this, divisions are erased.

Hope is given in Canada and around the world. The "Them and Us" mentality is eradicated in favour of "This is what we can do together".

The day labourers in the parable are encouraged to see the joy that completing the harvest brings, and to acknowledge they received what they agreed to. The joy is in the equality of the gift- for we can all share God's Grace equally.

And Alongside Hope is a vehicle for the very blessing of abundance and security that comes with a devotion to God;

When clean water reaches a village in Zimbabwe, we all drink

When food is grown on a Tanzanian refugee camp, we all eat

When shelter is provided following a natural disaster in Canada, we are all housed

When a mother safely gives birth in Mozambique, we all rejoice

When a Doctor operates in a hospital in the war torn West Bank, we all heal

The Gifts of God are available to all, regardless of status, background, creed or colour

And here is the “takeaway”

The first will be last and the last first.

While there are warnings throughout the bible about earthly possessions, today, of all days would be a great day to support the work of Alongside Hope, offering a lifeline to the most vulnerable people in the world- opening up the avenue of dignity, family, health, prosperity and abundant living with God- Bringing the last first, as it is with Heaven

Humbling the first, while lifting the last

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### Suggested Hymns

|          |                                                 |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| SFGP 95  | Great is thy faithfulness                       |
| CP 3     | Morning has broken                              |
| SFGP 133 | We are pilgrims on a journey (The servant song) |
| CP 259   | For the fruit of all creation                   |

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### Contact

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