

A Place to Call Home

Luke 6:47-48



SPEAKING NOTES

Your speaking notes for Anglicare Sunday 2024 are designed as a guide to assist you in your presentation.

Above all, we want you to feel as comfortable as possible about your presentation. Using anecdotes from your own experience, and using your own words are powerful ways to engage a congregation.

Thank you for being part of Anglicare Sunday!

WELCOME/INTRO

- My name is _____ and I'm [how you are connected to Anglicare].
- I'm really passionate about the work of Anglicare because ... [i.e. I love the ways in which Anglicare reaches out to people in need in our community.]
- Anglicare Sunday is the day we celebrate the partnership between the parish and Anglicare in alleviating poverty in our community. This year's theme is 'A PLACE TO CALL HOME'

THANK YOU

- Today is Anglicare Sunday and I want to thank you for the opportunity to share today.
- We know that individuals and churches across the community contribute so much in prayers, volunteering and finances to support people through the work of Anglicare.
- Anglicare Sunday is the day we celebrate that partnership.

ABOUT ANGLICARE

- Anglicare is the mission arm of the Anglican church, the aim of which is to help the most disadvantaged children and families to hope, heal and thrive so they can lead lives free from poverty.
- This is no small mission and certainly one that calls for the support of individuals, churches and the community.
- Anglicare is fortunate to receive government funding for particular programs, however this funding is not enough to cover the full scope of our services.



A Place to Call Home

Luke 6:47-48

ABOUT OUR SERVICES

- Our services range from emergency relief to foster care, housing, disability services, early learning education, retirement villages and youth and family services.
- In the last 12 months alone, over 15,500 people have been assisted through our emergency relief services right across our region. These are people struggling with high housing and living costs, who have accessed our services for food and other essentials.

WHERE WE WORK

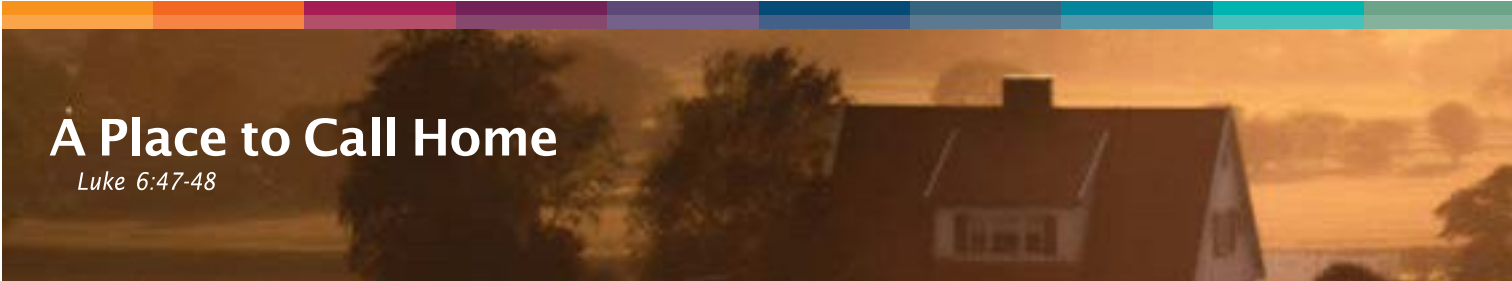
- Anglicare's main offices are in Moruya, Goulburn, Canberra and Wagga Wagga. We also provide Out of Home Cares services in the Sydney region, based from our Liverpool office.

ABOUT ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

- As with previous years, Anglicare is being run in coordination with Anti-Poverty Week.
- This Sunday marks the end of the week, which is a time for communities around Australia to focus on issues of local poverty and look at ways they can make a difference.
- Main themes for Anti-Poverty Week 2025:
 - **Ending Child Poverty:** This is a primary focus for Anti-Poverty Week, with a national campaign to End Child Poverty inviting people to sign a pledge and petition.
 - **Raise the Rate:** The campaign advocates for increasing payments for those in poverty, such as increasing Newstart and Rent Assistance, to reduce poverty.
 - **Everybody's Home:** This campaign calls for urgent, bold steps to end homelessness and ensure safe, affordable housing for all.

POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA

- The Australian Council of Social Services estimates more than 3.3 million people in Australia live below the poverty line.
- More than 1 million people in NSW alone, live in poverty.
- These are heartbreaking and challenging statistics, but throughout Anglicare's history advocating and assisting those in need has been the focus. And it's a focus we will continue, showing Christ's love in action.



A Place to Call Home

Luke 6:47-48

HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

- Anglicare provides housing assistance to over 1,000 individuals annually (more than double our funding) addressing crises such as domestic family violence (DFV) and homelessness.
- Without secure and suitable accommodation, individuals and families often struggle to access education, maintain steady employment, support their health and wellbeing, and build strong relationships within their communities

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 19 OCTOBER

- Jeremiah 37:27-34
- Psalm 119:97-104
- 2 Timothy 3:10-4:5
- Luke 18:1-14

[or choose your preferred readings]

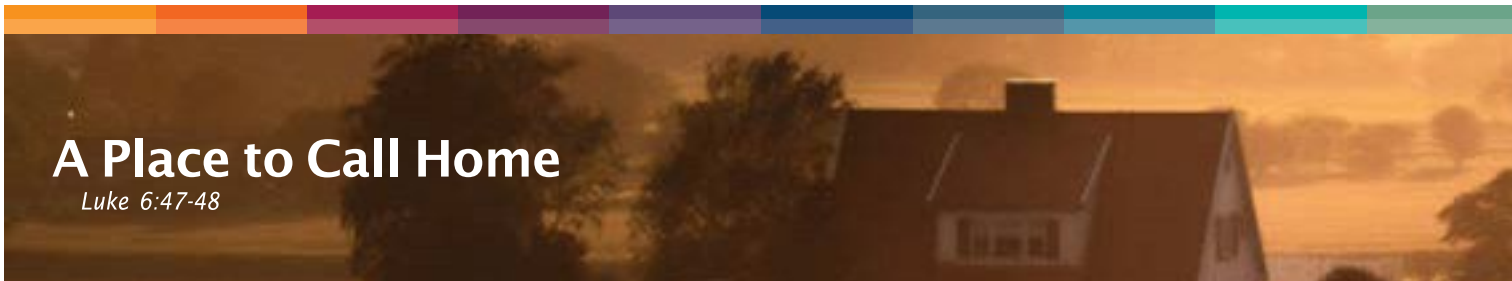
SUMMARY OF LUKE READINGS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

It would seem that the lectionary gospel readings from Luke have, for the last few weeks, been a good introduction to Anglicare Sunday.

It started in Luke chapter 14 with the lessons in kingdom etiquette – the story the man Jesus healed on the sabbath, then the parables of the wedding feast and banquet. These speak of hospitality in generous terms not known in the Israelites (or the Romans) normal social settings. They also speak of humility on the part of the host – to offer inclusion to all and to allow them to sit at your table means you have to radically rethink who you yourself are.

Then Luke chapter 15 continues this theme of inclusion with parables of being lost – a sheep, a coin and finally a son. The two small stories of the sheep and coin are an introduction to the idea of the joy of finding something valued and lost. There is a repetition of language in the stories emphasising the effort the owner takes to recover their possession and the rejoicing and celebration when it is found.

Luke chapter 16 still has the underlying theme of generosity, but moves into a discussion of loving money – how hard is it to be generous if you are wealthy. It seems a puzzle, surely with wealth you can give, but Jesus warns that we can't serve two masters – for we will be devoted to one and hate the other – we can't serve both money and humanity. This lesson is then aptly illustrated with the story of Lazarus and the rich man following their deaths.



A Place to Call Home

Luke 6:47-48

Luke chapter 17 teaches us of the demands of our faith, and the joys and possibilities it will bring. We can move mountains! We can also see those around us in need and will be able to offer them hope and healing, even though 9 out of 10 won't come back to find out how or why it happened.

This is the Christian message. This reflects Anglicare's mandate of hoping, healing and thriving.

Then we come to today's gospel of the 'judge who neither feared God nor had a respect for people'. There are so many ways we could speak about this – the biblical responsibility to care for widows, orphans and strangers. We could focus on the importance of prayer and persistence, or on the nature of faith. All of these would fit into the theme of Anglicare Sunday.

But let's look specifically at the unjust judge. Here is a character representing much we can see in the world, who it seems has no care or compassion for the needy. But even this person will eventually respond, even if it is for selfish reasons, so he can get a good night's sleep.

I'm definitely not wanting to say that care agencies who don't operate from a Christian mandate do so for the wrong reasons, but this judge does give us the opportunity to reflect not so much on *why* Anglicare is part of our church community, but on what makes Anglicare *different* from all other care agencies.

You see, if the world will eventually give to those in desperate need, how much more would an organisation who operates with God's generosity and care.

ANGLICARE'S MANDATE

- As part of the church we know we have a biblical mandate to care for those in need.
- This is part of the reason that we have a day like Anglicare Sunday to truly focus on this issue.
- Often we think of poverty as being an issue affecting other communities and other countries.
- It's quite a shock to be confronted with the tragic reality of the real poverty right here in our communities. We can fix the system and prevent more Australians struggling with the cost of living and housing crisis.

THE WORK OF ANGLICARE – Helping People in Crisis (Short Term Services)

- Hundreds of families access Anglicare's support every month across the region.
- While Anglicare runs many services, ones which often see families present with the most needs include the Homelessness and Housing service, and emergency relief services in Canberra, Wagga Wagga, Moruya, Goulburn and Eden.



A Place to Call Home

Luke 6:47-48

THE WORK OF ANGLICARE – Breaking the Cycle of Poverty (Long Term Support)

- The ‘thrive’ aspect of our services. How we support individuals and families beyond times of crisis.
- Our staff and volunteers are able to offer referral services to clients and as well as operating other local services such as playgroups, the Youth Education Program, financial counselling, and others.

JOHN 10:10

Anglicare is fortunate to get government funding for much of its work, but it strives to go beyond just what is necessary. Anglicare doesn't want people just to survive, they want them to thrive!

John 10.10 (in the middle of Jesus being the shepherd and gate discourse, the great I am statements) says ‘The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.’

Anglicare helps because we, God's people, know that much has been stolen and destroyed from so many people. We know that God's kingdom welcomes all and offers life to all, and it is our place to help that to happen. We share Jesus' joy when someone lost is found, when we can share the banquet, but recognise that even if they simply walk away, they still deserve our help.

What makes Anglicare different, and where it partners with parishes to see this come to fruition, is the knowledge that Jesus came to give not just adequate life, not even just ordinary life, but ABUNDANT life.

Government funding is designed for adequate life – not ordinary life as most of us would know it here today. But Anglicare aims for more, for abundance, and for that it needs your help, because that's not covered in government funding. So where they are paid to walk a mile, they try to walk two. They try to help people thrive. Staff and volunteers can refer clients to other services, and can offer local services such as playgroups, financial counselling, gambling help, English conversation classes, youth education programs. It can get involved in projects such as raising the age of foster care funding to 21 to stop the cycle of 50% of young people formerly in care becoming homeless in the first 12 months after their 18th birthday. Often young people leaving care are the most vulnerable and raising the rate of Newstart would also ensure they are supported through the transition of leaving care.

We could argue that these things should be seen as ordinary, but striving for more is the beginning of abundance that Jesus offers!

