

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
May 5, 2024



"The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" – John 1:29

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Psalm 32

Leader: How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,

People: Whose sin is covered!

Leader: How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity,

People: And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

Leader: When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away

People: Through my groaning all day long.

Leader: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;

People: My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer.

Leader: I acknowledged my sin to You,

People: And my iniquity I did not hide;

Leader: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD";

People: And You forgave the guilt of my sin.

Leader: Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found;

People: Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.

Leader: You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble;

People: You surround me with songs of deliverance.

Leader: I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;

People: I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

*Leader: Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding,
whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check,*

People: Otherwise they will not come near to you.

Leader: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

People: But he who trusts in the LORD, lovingkindness shall surround him.

Leader: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones;

People: And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Matthew 9:2-6

***Hymn #427** (red hymnal) – “Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands”

Scripture Reading – Romans 1:18-32; 3:9-23

Ancient Creedal Reading – Nicene Creed (pg#846 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

[Gifts labeled “Deacon’s Fund go to aid those in need in the congregation.]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sung Psalm #51A** (see insert below) – “*God, Be Merciful to Me*”

Prayers of the Church & Lord’s Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Heidelberg Catechism (1563 AD), 3-5

Leader: *How do you come to know your misery?*

People: **The law of God tells me.**

Rom 3:20; 7:7-25

Leader: *What does God’s law require of us?*

People: **Christ teaches us this**

Leader: *In summary in Matthew 22:37-40: You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*

Deut 6:5

People: **This is the greatest and first commandment.**

Leader: *And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

Lev19:18

People: **On these two commandments hang all the law
and the prophets.**

Leader: *Can you live up to all this perfectly?*

Gen 6:5; Jer 17:9; Eph 2:1-3;

People: **No. I have a natural tendency to hate God
and my neighbor.**

Rom 3:9-20,23; 7:23-24; 8:7

Titus 3:3; 1John 1:8,10;

Ministry of the Word – Preaching

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Titus 3:3

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal) .

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Sermon – “*Sin*”

A Sermon Series on Titus

Ministry of the Word – The Lord’s Supper

Invitation & Warning

Scripture – Matthew 26:26-28

Prayer

Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #499** (red hymnal) – “*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

[After service, until 12:30 PM, there is coffee hour fellowship downstairs – Everyone is welcome!]

Announcements

- If you would like to **help the Franceschetti family** (Dave, Janelle & baby Caleb) there are a few options:
 - Prayer, which is always greatly appreciated.
 - The Franceschetti’s have a gofundme account at: <https://gofundme/1c7aaeb4>
(Or you can search for: “gofundme Franceschetti Family”)
 - If you would like to donate a meal, see Julie Latina.
(julieannalatina@gmail.com; h=860-824-8410; c=860-480-1687)
- If you have any prayer requests you would like the Internet Prayer Chain to pray for, please email send them to Donna Ensminger at: trcnwprayer@gmail.com. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)
- If you are interested in a summer self-study introduction to **NT Greek class**, facilitated by Pastor Doug, please see Pastor Doug.
- There are **Bibles** and “*Basics of the Faith*” pamphlets about various theological topics free if you are interested.
- **Summer worship hours** will be at 9:30 AM for July and August.
Sunday School for All Ages will end sometime in June.

Upcoming Special Events

- There will be a **Special Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, May 19th, after church, to do the following business:
 - To examine and vote on the Elders’ recommendation that Jonathan Haulenbeek become a Ruling Elder of TRC.
 - To discuss and vote on the Elders’ recommended changes to the bylaws.
(Copies of the bylaws with the suggested changes are available on the table.)
 - To receive the Elders’ “State of the Church” report.
 - To ask any questions the congregation might have of the Elders.
- On Saturday, July 20th (with a rain date of July 27th), there will be a **pool party and picnic** for the church at the Decker-Gabelmann house. (Time & details to be announced.)

Normal Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:00-10:15 AM

Sunday School for All Ages

- Younger Children’s Class (Vika Winters)
- Older Children’s Class (Mason Goodell)
- Women’s Study (Verna Aldrich)

Taking Hold of God: Reformed & Puritan Perspectives

on Prayer edited by Joel R. Beeke & Brian G. Najapfour

- Adult Study (Pastor Doug)
Christ & Creed: The Early Church Creeds & their Value for Today by Nate Pickowicz.

10:30 AM **LORD'S DAY WORSHIP**
(Lord's Supper on the 1st Sunday)

c.11:40 AM **Coffee Hour**

Tuesday

10:30 AM – Noon **Christian Classic Study** (Pastor Doug's house)
Augustine's City of God

Wednesday

6:30 – 8:00 PM **Wednesday Bible Study** (Pastor Doug's house)
Book of Genesis

Friday

6:30 PM **YADG** – Young Adult Discussion Group (Pastor Doug's house)
1st & 3rd Fridays

Saturday

[*morning*] **Prayer Group** – Meets at the Decker-Gabelmann house.
If you are interested, please contact Sheryl Gabelmann.

Contact Information

Worship: Every Sunday at 10:30 AM (9:30 AM for July & August) at the Winchester Grange: 100 Newfield Rd, Winchester Center, CT 06098

Church's Mailing Address: Trinity Reformed Church; P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065

Pastor Doug: (860) 379-1147; douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net

Online Resources

Church's Facebook Page: facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/

Church's Webpage: TrinityReformedCT.org

Church Youtube Channel: youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT

Pastor Doug's Youtube Channels:

Simply Reformed: youtube.com/simplyreformed

Pilgrims of Plunder: youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder

Liking, Commenting, Sharing facebook posts and Subscribing, Liking, Commenting on youtube helps boost TRC's online outreach.

Leadership

Teaching & Preaching Elder: Pastor Doug Aldrich
(860-379-1147; douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net)

Ruling Elders: Bob Ensminger
(860-485-8738; robert.ensminger@arthurgrossell.com)
Rich Gabelmann
(860-605-7852; rgabelmann0415@gmail.com)

Deacons: David Mattson (*chair*), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters

Music Coordinator & Treasurer: Cindy Rines

Clerk: Sheryl Gabelmann

Sunday School: Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell

Sermon Notes

Titus 3:3

“Sin”

A Sermon Series on Titus

May 5, 2024

Introduction

- 1) What was your reaction to today’s Reformation Creedal Reading from the Heidelberg Catechism?
 - a) *Question #5:* Can you live up to all this (i.e. God’s Law) perfectly?
 - b) *Answer:* No. I have a natural tendency to hate God and my neighbor. Rom 3:9-20,23; 7:23-24; 8:7; Eph 2:1-3; Gen 6:5; Jer 17:9; **Titus 3:3**; 1John 1:8,10
- 2) The “no” probably everyone agrees with.
 - a) After all, we would all say that we are “not perfect.”
 - b) But do you agree with the explanation?
 - c) That you have a natural tendency to hate God and your neighbor?
- 3) For our first sermon series for TRC we have been going through the Book of Titus.
- 4) I chose Titus for several reasons:
 - a) It’s short, only three chapters. (Half joking.)
 - b) It had the verse that inspired and guided me on how to get TRC up and running.

Titus 1:5 – *“For this reason I (the Apostle Paul) left you (Pastor Titus) in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you”*
 - c) Titus is one of the Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2Timothy + Titus) that directly deal with how the church should be organized, with a strong focus on the leadership.
 - d) It focuses on some critical issues that our culture and pop-Evangelicalism doesn’t want to deal with.
 - i) For example:
 - The importance of “*sound doctrine*”, not minimalistic doctrine, but healthy accurate doctrine, and the willingness of the leadership to “*refute those who contradict*”. Titus 1:9-2:1
 - Respect for authority, the correct understanding of gender rolls, and male headship in the church and the family. Titus 1:6; 2:2-10; 3:1
 - A wonderful proof text to illustrate the strength of our Reformed Tradition. Titus 2:11
 - ii) Worldly idols in the church should always be aggressively dealt with.
 - iii) I wanted this church to start off on the right foundation and direction.
 - That we be clear, courageous and charitable.
 - As Pastor Voddie Baucham puts it to preachers: “*Just say what the Book says.*” Or to change it for parishioners: “*Just believe and do what the Book says.*”
 - Even better, 1Corinthians 1:9-10 – “*God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.*”

- e) Titus speaks beautifully that we are to be zealous for good deeds.
 - i) That we are to be: Titus 1:1,8-9; 2:2-10,14; 3:1-2
 - ii) Godly, hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word, temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, sound in love, sound in perseverance, reverent, loving family, pure, kind, having purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech, respecting authority, peaceable, gentle, and showing every consideration for all men.
- f) Finally, and most importantly, Paul ends Titus with one of the greatest descriptions of the Gospel in the Bible (Titus 3:3-8).
 - i) The Gospel is the most powerful thing in the world it is called, and comes from, the "power of God."¹
 - ii) To give a simple definition of the Gospel: *"the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace . . . For . . . the gospel . . . is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith.'"*
 – Romans 1:1b-5a,16b-17
 - iii) Titus 3:3-8 wonderfully describes the power of the Gospel on the believer.

Getting the Gospel Right – Sin

- 1) To get the "Good News" (the meaning of the word "Gospel") right, however, we have to first understand the problem.
- 2) This is critical.
 - a) If you get sin wrong you will get the Gospel wrong and you will get everything wrong.
 - b) The more you water down sin the more you water down the Gospel, the power of God.
 - i) And the more you will lack faith, hope and love.
 - ii) As our Lord said, *"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it."* - Mark 8:35
 - iii) As the worldly saying goes, "run to the fire" or "hug the bomb."
- 3) Understanding the doctrine of sin is probably the most important doctrine to first comprehend in order to understand and live out the Christian faith.
 - a) Most questions or objections about the faith come from a weak view of sin.
 - b) *For example:*
 - Why the Flood?
 - Why did God order the slaughter of the Canaanites? (Jericho & Ai)
 - Why suffering & natural disasters?
 - Why do "good" people suffer?
 - Why do we have to die?
 - Why are there so many religions?
 - Why did God have to kill His Son?
 - Why does hell exist if God is good?
 - c) *Answer:* Because of sin and God is holy.

¹ Rom 1:16-17; Num 14:17-18; Matt 22:29; Mark 12:24; Luke 5:17; 22:69; 1Cor 1:18,24; 2:5; 2Cor 6:7; 13:4; Eph 1:19; 3:6-7,16-20; 1Thes 1:5; 2Tim 1:7-10; Heb 6:5; 1Pet 1:3-5; 2Pet 1:3.

- 4) When you go through the critical biblical texts that describe in detail the power of the Gospel they all start with sin. Ps 107:17-22; Mark 1:15-17; John 3:9-21; 6:36-69; Rom 3:19-8:31; 1Cor 6:9-12; Eph 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-8
- a) What was the Lord Jesus' first command He gave the public?
 - i) Repent! To turn from one's self, sin, Satan and the world and turn to Christ.
 - ii) *"Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"*
- Mark 1:14b-15
 - b) Romans, chapters 1:18-8:39, is the longest description in the Bible.
 - i) We just read the thesis statement in Romans 1:16-17.
 - ii) Note how Paul begins the detailed description in the next verse: *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,"* - Romans 1:18
 - c) Or in Ephesians 2:1-10, how does it begin in verses 1-3?
 - i) That we are by our fallen nature, dead in sin, a child of Satan and an enemy of God.
 - ii) That is very different then the usual: *"Yes, I'm a sinner. I'm not perfect but I am basically a good person."*

Titus 3:3

- 1) Back to the Heidelberg Catechism, question 5:
 - a) Do you agree that we fallen sinners *"have a natural tendency to hate God and our neighbor?"*
 - b) Notice that Titus 3:3 is one of the proof texts!
Gen 6:5; Jer 17:9; Rom 3:9-20,23; 7:23-24; 8:7; Eph 2:1-3; **Titus 3:3**; 1John 1:8,10
- 2) Titus 3:3 – *"For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another."*
 - a) When you hear this verse do you object to its description of humanity?
 - b) Do you think, *"yeah, but I know some really nice non-Christians, in fact they are nicer than most Christians I know!"*
- 3) Question, do these friends fear and follow the Triune God of the Bible and base all their thinking according to His Word? Prov 1:7; 9:10; Job 28:28; Ps 111:10; 15:33; Eccl 12:13
 - a) If "no", you realize that person is a fool.
 - b) Proverbs 1:7 - *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction."*
 - c) A fool doesn't understand God, or seek after Him, because they turn away from God's ways and follow after their own. Ps 14:1-3ff; 53:1-3ff
- 4) Are these friends disobedient to God's Law and commandments?
 - a) Do they have any idols in their lives, things they put before God? Ex 20:3-17
Do they take the Lord's name in vain?
Do they keep the Sabbath and go to church?
Do they lie? Engage in sexual sins? Do they covet?
 - b) So, they are disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures.

- 5) *"But they don't spend their lives in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another"*, you might say.
- a) What is the greatest commandments?
 - i) The Lord Jesus was very clear on the answer.
 - ii) Matthew 22:37-40 – *"And He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."*
 - b) So, do these friends love God first and foremost with all their beginning?
 - i) If no, then they hate God.
 - ii) *"But they don't know him!"* You might respond.
 - The Bible teaches the problem is not lack of evidence but a rebellious heart.
 - Romans 1:18-23
 - iii) Try this: Go to them and talk about Christ and His cross, call them to repentance and insist they go to church and see their reaction.
 - c) *"But they are really nice to people!"* You might insist.
 - i) Do they love their neighbor according to God's Word?
 - ii) Leviticus 19:18b-19a – *"you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord. You are to keep My statutes."*
 - iii) Do they encourage their friends and family in the ways of holiness and godliness? Do they love God's people? Do they gather with them in the worship of God?
 - iv) If no, then they have malice to their neighbor and hate him.
- 6) "Are you saying I should hate my non-believing friends, neighbors and family?!" You might reply.
- a) No, of course not!
 - b) Good friends, let alone family, even non-Christians ones, are a blessing from God.

Gen 2:18; Ruth 1:8-18; 2Sam 1:26;
Ps 127:3-5; Prov 17:6; 18:22; 31:10ff;
Acts 19:31; 1Cor 5:9-12; Eph 5:25-33
 - c) As we have read we are called to love our neighbors, even our enemies.

Lev 19:18; Matt 22:39
Matt 5:43-44; Rom 12:20
- 7) I really wasn't trying to pick on non-believers, but instead pick on you, or I should say us.
- a) Remember our Lord's warning about focusing on the speck your brother's* eye while missing the log in your own.

Matt 7:1-6
 - b) Do you notice what we are doing with our *"yeah, but my friends are nice to me"* way of thinking.
 - c) We are making ourselves the standard, judging the world by how it interacts with us, instead of by God's standards.
 - d) Doesn't that show how foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved, malicious, envious, and hateful our fallen heart is?
- 8) *"Are you trying to make me depressed, do you want me to go kill myself?"* You might say.
- a) I'm trying to have us deal with reality.
 - b) Embrace the biblical truth how sinful we, and all mankind, really are.
 - c) Repentance and sorrow of sin is a very good thing.

Ps 38:18; 51:17; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38

d) As for suicide, that would be very selfish, and even murder.

Gen 9:5-6

e) But there is another option.

Conclusion – Christ

1) You could repent! Turn from yourself, your sin, the world and Satan and turn and trust in Christ!

a) Once, by the grace of God, we realize how wicked we are by our fallen nature, our only option to flee to the foot of His cross and cling Christ.

b) “*Are you trying to make us codependent on Christ?*” You might ask.

c) Yes, 100 percent.

i) Because I want you to be happy.

ii) In the true biblical sense of joy not the worldly sense of amusement (literally to stop thinking).

d) True joy, rest and power is only found in Christ’s perfect forgiveness.

e) To quote the Lord, “*All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*”

2) Question: Who is the “we” in Titus 3:3?

Answer: By the context, clearly Christians.

a) Question: Is Titus 3:3 in the past, present or future tense?

Answer: Clearly past tense, “*For we also **once were** . . .*”

b) The sins described in Titus 3:3 no longer apply to the Christian because all our sins have been nailed to the cross with Christ, we have been cleansed by His blood, and we have new life in the Spirit.

Rom 8:2-39;

Gal 3:13-29;

1John 1:7

c) As we read in Titus 2:13b-14 – “*our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.*”

3) Once you understand Titus 3:3 you can keep on reading, and what comes next is glorious and powerful!

a) Titus 3:3-7 – “*But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*”

b) For the next few Sundays we will be working through this powerful Good News.

c) Yet, equally exciting let us go to the King’s Table and taste this Gospel right now!