

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
May 12, 2024

*"Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim good tidings
of His salvation from day to day." – 1Chronicles 16:23*



“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Isaiah 12:1-6

Leader: Then you will say on that day,

People: I will give thanks to You, O LORD;

Leader: For although You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away,

People: And You comfort me.

Leader: Behold, God is my salvation,

People: I will trust and not be afraid;

Leader: For the LORD GOD is my strength and song,

People: And He has become my salvation.

Leader: Therefore you will joyously draw water

People: From the springs of salvation.

Leader: And in that day you will say,

People: Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name.

Leader: Make known His deeds among the peoples;

People: Make them remember that His name is exalted.

Leader: Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things;

People: Let this be known throughout the earth.

Leader: Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,

People: For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Luke 1:77-79

***Hymn #457** (red hymnal) – “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Scripture Reading – Philippians 1:25-2:16

Ancient Creedal Reading – Apostles Creed (pg#845 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 #98B** (see insert below) – “*To the Lord O Sing a New Song*”

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), 1-2

Leader: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, 1Cor 6:19-20

Leader: In life and in death to my faithful Savior, Rom. 14:7-9

People: Jesus Christ. 1Cor 3:23; Titus 2:14

Leader: He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, 1Pet 1:18-19; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:2

People: And has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. John 8:34-36; Heb 2:14-15; 1John 3:1-11

Leader: He also watches over me in such a way John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; 2Thes 3:3; 1Pet 1:5

People: That not a hair can fall from my head

Leader: Without the will of my Father in heaven; Matt 10:29-31; Luke 21:16-18

People: In fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Rom 8:28

*Leader: Because I belong to Him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit,
assures me of eternal life and makes me
wholeheartedly willing and ready* Rom 8:15-16; 2Cor 1:21-22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14

People: From now on to live for Him. Rom 8:1-17

Leader: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

People: Three things:

Leader: First, how great my sin and misery are; Rom 3:9-10; 1John 1:10

People: Second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43

Leader: Third, how I am to thank God Matt 5:16; Rom 6:13; Eph 5:8-10;

People: For such deliverance. 2Tim 2:15; 1Pet. 2:9-10

Ministry of the Word – Preaching

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Titus 3:4-5a

***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 – “*The Kindness of God*”

A Sermon Series on Titus

***Hymn #460** (red hymnal) – “*Amazing Grace!*”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

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

Announcements

- There will be **no Coffee Hour next week** because of the Special Congregational meeting.
- The Elders and Deacons are trying to think of a **local charitable outreach** TRC could do, either for someone in the church, or someone / something in the community - If you have any thoughts, suggestions or requests please see Pastor Doug.
- 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.com/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 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** next Sunday, after church, for following business:
 - To examine and vote on the Elders’ recommendation that Jonathan Haulenbeek become a Ruling Elder of TRC. (See his bio below.)
 - 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.

Jon's bio: Jon Haulenbeek received a Masters of Divinity degree from Gordon-Connell Theological Seminary (GCTS) in 1981, the same year he and Trisha were married. Trisha completed her Masters of Theological Studies degree (GCTS) a year or so later. From the very beginning they have lived and worked as a team. They spent roughly 2 1/2 years in Charleston, WV, where Jon accepted a call as associate minister at The Baptist Temple, then another 2 1/2 years or so as a solo pastor of a yoked parish near Hoosick Falls, NY. From there, they moved to Connecticut, where Jon began working as a financial advisor, which he continues to this day, only to find himself back in the pulpit ministry at Northfield Congregational Church a few years later. For the ensuing 18 years Jon engaged in two roles, a part-time pastor and a financial advisor. When not at his desk, Jon enjoys spending time with his wife and cats, building and fixing things, reading and studying.

- On Saturday, **June 1st** (with a rain date of June 8th), there will be a **picnic** for the church at the Ensminger's house. (Time & details to be announced.)
- 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.)
- On Saturday, **September 7th**, there will be a **picnic** for the church at the Winters' 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

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Sermon Notes

Titus 3:4-5a
"The Kindness of God"
A Sermon Series on Titus
May 12, 2024

Introduction

- 1) Titus 3:3 reads: *"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."*
- 2) Thus begins the Apostle Paul's final major point in his letter to Pastor Titus about how to govern the church.
 - a) He ends with the most important thing: The Gospel. Rom 1:15-17
 - b) Titus 3:3-8 is one of the greatest, and simple, yet detailed, description of the Gospel and its power.
- 3) Last week we explained Titus 3:3 and why the first thing you have to understand to get the Gospel is the problem: Sin. Rom 1:18-3:23
Eph 2:1-3
 - a) The more you water down the reality of sin and the holiness of God the more you will water down the Gospel and delude yourself.
 - b) The more you "run to the fire" / "hug the bomb" the more you will live, John 11:25
because you will be compelled to flee to Christ and in Him is life and power. John 14:6
- 4) As the Heidelberg Catechism Q#2 beautifully describes the Christian faith:
 - a) *Question:* What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?
 - b) *Answer:* Three things:
 - i) First, how great my sin and misery are; Rom 3:9-10; 1John 1:10

Titus 3:3; Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:18-3:20

ii) Second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery;

John 17:3;
Acts 4:12; 10:43

Titus 3:4-7; Ephesians 2:4-9; Romans 3:21-4:25

iii) Third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

Matt 5:16; Rom 6:13; Eph 5:8-10;
2Tim 2:15; 1Pet 2:9-10

Titus 3:8; Ephesians 2:10; Romans 5:1-8:39; 12:1-15:33

c) We dealt with the first part last Sunday, lets move on today to the second part.

The Kindness of God - Titus 3:4a

1) Conjunctions (i.e. and, but & or) are beautiful in the Bible, especially when God follows that conjunction.¹

a) Psalm 34:19 - "*Many are the afflictions of the righteous, **but** the LORD delivers him out of them all.*"

b) Ephesians 2:3b-4a - ". . . *by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **But** God, being rich in mercy.*"

c) Isaiah 53:6 - "*All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; **But** the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.*"

2) And from our sermon text, after describing sin so graphically in Titus 3:3 Paul writes: "**But** when the kindness of God . . ." - Titus 3:4a

a) Conjunctions shows where our thinking should turn to.

b) Literally "repentance" - To change our thinking / direction.

c) From our horrible sinful state with no hope in ourselves, to the full mercy and kindness of God found in Christ.

3) The kindness of God is a major theme in the Bible.

a) "*Your lovingkindness*" is a major phrase in the Old Testament, especially the Psalms.² And applies to all aspects of life:

i) God's creation proclaims.

Psalms 36:5 (KJV) - "*Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.*"

ii) It is the foundation of salvation.

Psalm 6:4 (KJV) - "*Return, O LORD, rescue my soul; Save me because of Your lovingkindness.*"

Psalm 51:1 (KJV) - "*Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.*"

iii) It is how we walk in holiness.

Psalm 36:10 (KJV) - "*O continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart.*"

¹ Gen 7:24-8:1; 50:20; Ps 9:6-7; 14:6; 18:18; 27:10; 34:19; 37:17; 49:14-15; 73:26; 94:21-22; Is 5:15-16; 53:6,9-10; Rom 3:20-21; 1Cor 1:26-27; 2Cor 7:5-6; Eph 2:3-4; Titus 3:3-4; 2Thes 3:2-3.

² Ps 6:4; 13:5; 17:7; 25:7; 26:3; 31:7,16; 33:22; 36:5,7,10; 40:10-11; 44:26; 48:9; 51:1; 57:10; 59:16; 63:3; 69:13,16; 85:7; 86:13; 88:11; 90:14; 92:2; 94:18; 108:4; 109:21,26; 115:1; 119:64,76,88,124,149,159; 138:2,8; 143:8,12.

iv) It empowers prayer.

Psalm 69:16 (KJV) - "*Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.*"

v) It is what drives worship.

Psalm 63:3 (KJV) - "*Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.*"

Psalm 5:7 (KJV) - "*But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, at Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.*"

b) This "lovingkindness" is about loyal love, unfailing kindness, devotion, love & affection that is steadfast based on a prior relationship.

c) The "kindness" in Titus 3:4 is benevolence, providing something that is useful and helpful.

4) All of this is closely related to God's "grace" Eph 2:7-8;
- To receive undeserved mercy. Titus 3:4,7

5) We see this throughout history, Gen 39:21; Ps 109:21; 145:17; Eph 2:7;
where God acts in kindness. Rom 2:4; 11:22; Titus 3:4; 1Pet 2:3

a) Obviously in creation, to be created and given life is good and useful. Gen 1:4,31

b) God gave clothes to Adam & Eve after the fall. Gen 3:21

Because from Adam & Eve will come the Christ. Luke 3:38

c) God chose His Old Testament people, Israel, Deut 7:7-8
solely because God loved them.

Because from Israel will come the Christ. Matt 1:2-3; 27:42

d) Especially in Christ, the purpose of all history. Gal 4:4; Eph 1:10; Heb 1:1-2

Our Savior - Titus 3:4b

1) God is exceedingly kind because God is "our Savior".

a) We need salvation from God's wrath, hell, Satan & demons, sin (internal and external), this world and its corruption (age, disease, disaster, etc.) ourselves (because of our fallen nature) and God's enemies. Rom 5:9; 10:9;
Eph 2:1-4;
Rev 20:14-15

b) This is all quite terrifying!

c) However, "*what then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*"
- Romans 8:31

2) Note the general use of the term "God" here.

a) All three persons of the Trinity are directly involved in our salvation.

b) The doctrine of the Trinity is the biblical teaching that God is "triune" (Three in Unity), that there is only one God who coeternally and coequally exists in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.³

i) The Father decrees salvation - Enthroned in heaven He orders His people to be saved.

ii) The Son accomplishes salvation - By becoming human and dying for the sins of the world.

³ Gen 1:1-3; Deut 6:4; Ps 119:154; Matt 3:13-17; 28:19; Luke 10:21-22; John 5:18-24; 14:26; 15:26-27; Acts 2:32-33; Phil 2:4-11; Gal 4:6; Col 2:9-10; 1Pet 1:2; 1John 4:13-15; Rev 5:6-13; 22:1-6

- iii) The Holy Spirit applies salvation - By dwelling in the saints and giving them faith in Christ.
- 3) Thus "*you are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*" - 1John 4:4
- 4) God's love is perfect because His love is simply a reflection of His character. 1John 4:8,16
 - a) "God is love" because He is triune.
 - b) If love is "*to will the others good according to God's Law.*" Matt 22:36ff; 1Cor 13:1ff
 - i) Then love exists in the very being of God.
 - ii) For example, because the Father loves the Son, this means the Father is loving God and His neighbor thus fulfilling the Law. (After all the Son is both God and the Father's neighbor.)
 - iii) Why is love good? Because God is loving.
 - c) Though we don't deserve God's love, because salvation is solely based on God's kindness, grace and love we can have full assurance, which will only increase our love for God and our neighbor.
- 5) Though God's love is shown throughout history, its fullness begins with Christ and the giving of His Spirit. Gal 4:4ff
Heb 1:1-2
 - a) In the Old Covenant, redemption was for one nation as a shadow and figure of what is to come.
 - b) In the New it is for all the nations.

Love For Mankind - Titus 3:4b

- 1) Thus, "*when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,*" - Titus 3:4b
- 2) Don't miss read this!
 - a) Remember our sermon on Titus 2:11.
 - b) This is not God trying to save everyone.
 - c) Look at the context:
 - i) Salvation is based on God's kindness (v.4) not our deeds of righteousness (v.5).
 - ii) God is "our Savior" (v.4), i.e. God's people, the elect.
- 3) God loves His creation and the created order. John 3:16
1John 4:10
 - a) God's salvation is on all types of people.
All the different nations, ethnic groups, social classes, genders, ages, etc.
 - b) God has a special love for man. Ps 8; John 3:16
 - i) Man is the pinnacle of creation Gen 1:27-31
 - ii) The Eternal Word of God, His Son, became a man and no other creature.
- 4) This salvation appears, with clarity, with Christ's earthly ministry, the meaning and purpose of all of history. Heb 1:1-2
- 5) Because salvation is only possible through the sinless God-man. Acts 4:12; 1Tim 2:5

Conclusion - Titus 3:5a

- 1) Thus, "*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy . . .*" - Titus 3:5a
- 2) Works are a very important part of the broad salvation process which God is doing by putting us "in Christ" by His grace.
 - a) The Bible usually uses the word "salvation" to refer to the whole process of redemption.

Philippians 2:12-13 - "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."
 - b) All too often American Christians make "salvation" to be just a narrow part of the salvation process, such as equating it only with regeneration (i.e. being made born again) or justification (i.e. being declared righteous).
 - c) Good works are the byproduct of salvation, see Titus 3:8.

(And Ephesians 2:10)
 - d) Remember that great quote (paraphrased) from Calvin, "*One is justified by faith alone, however, saving faith is never alone.*"
 - e) Good works are from God's grace too, by the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.
- 3) However, even good works "*done in righteousness*", i.e. good works that are according to God's Law are worthless unless there is first trust in Christ.
 - a) Remember the order: 1) Know your sin. 2) Know your Savior. 3) Good works
 - b) And this is encouraging.
 - c) Because "*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy . . .*" - Titus 3:5a