

# Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for  
June 2, 2024



*"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." – Galatians 3:26*

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“\*” = Please stand if you are able.

## Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

### Call to Worship – Ephesians 1:3-8a

*Leader: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

**People: Who has blessed us**

*Leader: With every spiritual blessing*

**People: In the heavenly places in Christ,**

*Leader: Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,*

**People: That we would be holy and blameless before Him.**

*Leader: In love He predestined us*

**People: To adoption as sons**

*Leader: Through Jesus Christ to Himself,*

**People: According to the kind intention of His will,**

*Leader: To the praise of the glory of His grace,*

**People: Which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.**

*Leader: In Him we have redemption*

**People: Through His blood,**

*Leader: The forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace*

**People: Which He lavished on us.**

## Prayer of Invocation and Confession

### Gospel Absolution Text – 1John 3:1-2

**\*Hymn #2** (red hymnal) – “O Worship the King”

**Scripture Reading** – Romans 8:14-25; Galatians 3:26-4:7

**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 #29A** (see insert below) – “*You Sons of the God*”

## **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** – Westminster Larger Catechism (1647 AD), 74

*Leader: What is adoption?*

**People: Adoption is an act of the free grace of God,** 1John 3:1

*Leader: In and for His only Son*

**People: Jesus Christ,** Eph 1:5; Gal 4:4-5

*Leader: Whereby all those that are justified are received into the number*

**People: Of his children,** John 1:12

*Leader: Have his name put upon them,* 2Cor 6:18; Rev 3:12

**People: The Spirit of his Son given to them,** Gal 4:6

*Leader: Are under His fatherly care and dispensations,* Ps 103:13; Prov 14:26; Matt 6:32

**People: Admitted to all the liberties and privileges  
of the sons of God,**

*Leader: Made heirs of all the promises,*

**People: And fellow-heirs with Christ in glory.** Heb 6:12; Rom 8:17

## **Ministry of the Word – Preaching**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**\*Sermon Text** – Titus 3:7b

**\*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** – “*Adoption & Heirs*”

A Sermon Series on Titus

## **Ministry of the Word – The Lord’s Supper**

### **Invitation & Warning**

### **Prayer**

**Scripture** – Matthew 26:26-28

**Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**\*Hymn #693** (red hymnal) – “*Blessed Assurance*”

**\*Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

## Announcements

- There will be a brief elder meeting after church today.
- The church would like to thank Bob & Donna Ensminger for hosting the picnic at their house on Saturday.
- 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/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.)
- 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

- On Saturday, **July 20<sup>th</sup>** (with a rain date of July 27<sup>th</sup>), there will be a **pool party and picnic** for the church at the Decker-Gabelmann house, starting at noon.
- On Saturday, **September 7<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a **picnic** for the church at the Winters' house, starting at noon.

## 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) – Denominational Differences
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

c.11:40 AM

#### **Coffee Hour**

### Tuesday

10:30 AM – Noon

**Christian Classic Study** (Pastor Doug's house) – Roman Catholicism

### Wednesday

6:30 – 8:00 PM

**Wednesday Bible Study** (Pastor Doug's house) – Ephesians

### Friday

6:30 PM

**YADG** – Young Adult Discussion Group (Pastor Doug's house)  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays

## Saturday

[morning]

**Prayer Group** – Meets at the Decker-Gabelmann house.

If you are interested, please contact Sheryl Gabelmann.

## Online Resources

**Church's Facebook Page:** [facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/](https://facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/)

**Church's Webpage:** [TrinityReformedCT.org](http://TrinityReformedCT.org)

**Church Youtube Channel:** [youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT](https://youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT)

**Pastor Doug's Youtube Channels:**

*Simply Reformed:* [youtube.com/simplyreformed](https://youtube.com/simplyreformed)

*Pilgrims of Plunder:* [youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder](https://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@arthurgrussell.com)  
Rich Gabelmann  
(860-605-7852; rgabelmann0415@gmail.com)  
Jonathan Haulenbeek  
(860-283-0224; jhaulenbeek@icloud.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 3:7b

"Adoption & Heirs"

A Sermon Series on Titus

June 2, 2024

## Introduction

- 1) Adoption is beautiful biblical doctrine.
  - a) That God adopts us, makes us royal sons and daughters, heirs of His Kingdom, through His only begotten Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.
  - b) The idea that someone would not only show kindness to a stranger but would take them in, love them, raise them as their own, declare them their heir of all that they have, is very beautiful.
  - c) Let alone when God adopts one of us rebel sinners.

- 2) We clearly read this in our sermon text today: "*so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*" - Titus 3:7
- a) An "heir" is simply the "*one who gets the inheritance.*" Mark 12:7
- b) Normally, one's child is one's heir.  
And receiving one's full inheritance is a blessing.
- 3) The Bible teaches we are heirs<sup>1</sup> because we have been adopted and will receive an inheritance.<sup>2</sup>
- a) Ephesians 1:5 - "*He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,*"
- b) Galatians 4:5-7 - "*so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.*"

## **The Problem - Child of Satan**

- 1) We are going through Titus 3:3-8, which is one of the most beautiful and shortest, yet profound, Gospel texts in the Bible.
- a) Along with Ephesians 2:1-10, Titus 3:3-8 is one of the best texts to witness with.
- b) It follows the classic pattern of:
- i) First, you have to understand the problem - **Sin.** Titus 3:3
- ii) Next, to know the solution - **Salvation is only through Christ.** Titus 3:4-7
- iii) Finally, the outcome of such a salvation - **Good works.** Titus 3:8
- c) The order is critical!<sup>3</sup>
- i) You can't skip steps!
- ii) If you water down the problem you will not get the solution and the liberation it brings.
- iii) This is very easy to do, however.  
Let me illustrate . . .

<sup>1</sup> Ex 19:5; Deut 7:6; 14:2; Rom 4:13-14; 8:15-17,23; 9:4; 2Cor 6:18; Gal 3:29; 4:1-7; Eph 1:5; 3:6; Titus 3:7; Heb 1:2; 6:17; 11:7-9; James 2:5; 1Pet 2:9; 3:7

<sup>2</sup> Ps 37:11,18; Matt 5:3; 19:29; 25:34; Mark 10:17; Luke 10:25; 12:32; 18:18; Acts 20:32; 26:18; 1Cor 6:9-10; 15:50; Gal 3:18; 5:19-21; Eph 1:11,14,18; 5:5; Col 1:12; 3:24; Titus 2:14; Heb 1:14; 6:12; 9:15; James 2:5; 1Pet 1:4; 3:9

<sup>3</sup> As the Heidelberg Catechism, Q#2, puts it: *Question*: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort? *Answer*: Three things: First, how great my sin and misery are; (Rom 3:9-10; 1John 1:10) Second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; (2John 17:3; Acts 4:12; 10:43) 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)

This pattern of Repent - Believe - Follow is found in:

Ps 107:17-19a - Ps 107:19b-20 - Ps 107:21-22  
 Mark 1:15a - Mark 1:15b - Mark 1:16-17  
 John 3:9-13 - John 3:14-18 - John 3:19-21  
 John 6:36 - John 6:37-65 - John 6:66-69  
**Rom 1:18-3:20 - Rom 3:21-4:25 - Rom 5:1-15:33**

Rom 3:19-20 - Rom 3:21-30 - Rom 3:31  
 Rom 5:6-8a - Rom 5:8b-10 - Rom 5:11  
 1Cor 6:9-10 - 1Cor 6:11 - 1Cor 6:12  
**Eph 2:1-3 - Eph 2:4-9 - Eph 2:10**  
**Titus 3:3 - Titus 3:4-7 - Titus 3:8**

- 2) *Question: Do you believe that everyone is a child of God?*<sup>4</sup>
- a) This is what Disney told us in the 1996 movie "Hunchback of Notre Dame" when Esmeralda sings "*I thought we all were the children of God*".
  - b) Radhanath Swami, the American Hindu Gaudiya Vaishnava guru, community-builder, activist, and author writes, "*Everyone is a child of god. God loves all of his children.*"  
Probably the majority of professing Christians in the USA would agree with this.
  - c) If you believe everyone is a child of God then you directly contradict Titus 3:7, the biblical doctrine of Adoption (which we just heard about) and Christ Himself.
- 3) If you want to understand the good things of the Gospel, you have to understand the bad things.
- a) Again, the more you water down the problem the more you will water down, Rom 1:18ff or even reject the good news and live in ignorance and darkness.
  - b) If God the Father has to adopt us through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, this means we start this life as someone else's son or daughter, right?
- 4) This is the clear teaching of Scripture. Acts 13:9-10; James 4:4
- a) Ephesians 2:1-3 - "*And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*"  
So, fallen man starts this life as: Spiritually dead in "*trespasses and sins*", a child of Satan<sup>5</sup> ("*sons of disobedience*") and an enemy of God<sup>6</sup> ("*by nature children of wrath*").
  - b) In the Parable of the Tares, the Lord Jesus teaches that we are either Matt 13:37-39 "*the sons of the kingdom*" or "*the sons of the evil one*".
  - c) Jesus teaches that anyone who commits sin is from their "*father the devil*." John 8:34,44
  - d) As the Apostle John teaches: "*the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.*" - 1John 3:8-10
- 5) All the good stuff (new life, adoption, reconciliation with God) implies something is wrong (spiritually dead, child of Satan, enemy of God).
- a) Romans 5:10 - "*For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*"
  - b) The more you get the bad part the more sweet and powerful is the work of God's Son, the reconciliation we have and the salvation Christ brings.
- 6) Titus 3:3-8 does this.

<sup>4</sup> Is 43:6; Hos 1:10; Matt 5:9,45; Luke 6:35; John 1:12; 11:52; Acts 17:29; Rom 8:14-17,19,21,23; 9:8,26; 2Cor 6:18; Phil 2:15; Gal 3:26; 1John 3:1-2,10; 5:2; Rev 21:7.

<sup>5</sup> Matt 13:37-39; Eph 2:1-3; John 8:38-47; 12:31; Acts 13:9-10; 26:18; 1John 3:7-10

<sup>6</sup> Rom 5:9-10; Eph 2:3; Col 1:21; James 4:4; 2Pet 2:14; (Is 42:13; 59:18; 66:6,14-16; Jer 30:14; Lam 2:4-5)

## Overview of Titus 3:3-8

### 1) **The Problem - Sin** = Titus 3:3

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."*

### 2) **The Solution - Salvation in Christ** = Titus 3:4-7

- a) **Effectual Calling** - Solely by God's gracious undeserved kindness salvation is wrought\* upon God's people. All of salvation is all of grace.
- John 6:44-45; Acts 26:18;  
Eph 1:18-20; Phil 2:13;  
2Thes 2:13-14; 2Tim 1:9

\* Wrought = "Worked; elaborated; not rough or crude. i.e. 'wrought iron'"

- b) **Regeneration** - We are given spiritual new life inside of us which causes us to turn away from sin and turn and trust in Christ.
- Ezek 11:19; 36:26;  
John 3:3-7; 2Cor 5:17;  
1Pet 1:3,23

- c) **Justification** - We are legally declared innocent because Christ's righteousness is imputed/credited to us, which we receive by faith alone.<sup>7</sup>

- d) As we read in Titus 3:4-7a - *"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 . . ."*

### 3) **The Outcome - Good Works** = Titus 3:8

- 4) There is one more thing before Good Works, however, we need to discuss before we finish about salvation in Titus 3:3-7.

- a) There is another legal pronouncement that goes with **justification**, it is **adoption**.

- b) Titus 3:7 - *"so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*

- c) We are not only forensically/legally declared innocent, we are also legally adopted.

## Adoption & Heirs

- 1) There is little talk about adoption in the Old Testament.

- a) This is not surprising because God chose one people (Israel) from Eden to be His until the prophesied New Covenant.
- Deut 7:6; 14:2;  
Heb 11:7-9

- b) Ex odus 19:5-6 - *"Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."*

- c) Isaiah 42:6 - *"I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, and I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations,"*

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<sup>7</sup> Gen 15:6; Ps 143:2; Hab 2:4; Matt 16:16-17; Mark 10:52; 16:16; John 1:12-13; 3:16-18; 5:24; 6:28-29; 8:24; Acts 10:43; 13:39; 15:10-11; 16:31; Rom 1:16-17; 3:20-28; 4:3-5; 5:1; 9:30; 10:4-6,9; 11:6; Gal 2:16,21; 3:5-6,11,14,22-25; 5:4; Eph 1:5-8,13; 2:8-9; Phil 3:9; 1Tim 1:16; 2Tim 1:9; Titus 3:5-7; Heb 10:38; 11:7,38; 12:2; 1Pet 1:5; 1John 5:1,13.

- 2) In Christ, the Gentiles are in-grafted into the OT promises, which were just shadows and figures of the clarity and reality that we now see and have in Christ. Rom 11:17-24; Gal 3:6,29; Eph 2:11-16; Col 2:16-17; Heb 8:5; 9:23; 10:1
- a) This is all by God's predetermined plan, solely by His grace. Eph 1:5-6; James 2:5
- b) We are "*a people for God's own possession.*" - 1Peter 2:9
- c) As we read in Titus 3:4-7a, it is all by the work of God through Christ.
- 3) Being an adopted child of God, through Christ, has blessings now, and also blessings to come, i.e. an inheritance.
- a) Just like being adopted in this world has blessings now (loving parents, a home, etc.) and blessings later (inheritance).
- b) Unlike in this life, those who adopt a child will die, however, the One who has adopted us has conquered death. 1Cor 15:26,54-56

### **Adoption - Blessings in This Life**

- 1) Adoption makes God our Father, not in some general sense, but in a very personal way.
- a) As we read in 2Corinthians 6:17b-18 - "*And I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,' says the Lord Almighty.*"
- b) We see this in the use of "*Abba! Father!*" in Scripture. Mark 14:36; Rom 8:15; Gal 4:5-7
- i) "*Abba*" was originally a nursery word used by children when talking to their father.
- ii) It is very intimate, familiar and personal.
- iii) Probably the best literal translation would be "*daddy.*"
- c) The Lord Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, of course uses it. Mark 14:36
- d) Because of Christ's work, now that we are children of God, we can use it too.
- i) Galatians 4:4-7 - "*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."*
- ii) Romans 8:15-17 - "*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."*
- 2) Adoption has put us into Christ's Kingdom, and we are citizens of His heavenly Kingdom right now. Luke 12:32; Eph 2:19; James 2:5; Phil 1:27; 3:20; Heb 12:22,28; Col 1:13; 3:1; 4:11;
- a) Whereas Israel inherited the land of Canaan, the church will "*inherit the earth.*" Matt 5:5
- b) Christ's current spiritual Kingdom has been advancing for 2,000 years! Luke 24:47



3) We *have* salvation, being put into Christ.

Eph 1:1-2:10

- a) Including having new life in the Spirit, regenerated, justified and adopted right now!
- b) 1Peter 1:3-5 - "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*"
  - i) Note where this begins: Worship & doxology.  
How can we not be thankful for such blessings!
  - ii) The things we *have* received:
    - \* Born again,
    - \* Have a living hope (on-going and powerful unlike worldly hope),
    - \* Protected by the power of God (which is shown by the faith He has given us).
- c) Acts 26:18 - "*to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.*"
- c) Also, our salvation is also ongoing. We are being sanctified and being prepared for the glories of heaven.

Phil 2:12

Heb 5:9

4) We have hope - Full assurance of what we have now and what we will have.

Rom 4:21; Col 2:2;

Heb 6:11; 10:22

- a) Because again, He who has adopted us already conquered death.
- b) And we can trust in His promises.
- c) Ephesians 1:18-20 (KJV) - "*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,*"

## **Inheritance - Blessings to Come**

1) Our full inheritance is to come, eternal life in heaven and then finally when all creation is redone into the new heavens and new earth.

Matt 19:29;

Heb 9:15

Titus 3:7 - "*so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*"

2) Matthew 25:34 - "*Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'*"