

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
August 11, 2024

"Who is among you that fears the LORD, that obeys the voice of His servant, that walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God." – Isaiah 50:10



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“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Psalm 103:17-22

Leader: *But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him,*

People: **And His righteousness to children's children,**

Leader: *To those who keep His covenant*

People: **And remember His precepts to do them.**

Leader: *The LORD has established His throne in the heavens,*

People: **And His sovereignty rules over all.**

Leader: *Bless the LORD, you His angels,*

People: **Mighty in strength, who perform His word,**

Leader: *Obedying the voice of His word!*

People: **Bless the LORD, all you His hosts,**

Leader: *You who serve Him, doing His will.*

People: **Bless the LORD, all you works of His,**

Leader: *In all places of His dominion;*

People: **Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – 1Corinthians 1:8-9

***Hymn #571** (red hymnal) – “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

Scripture Reading – 2Thessalonians 3:1-18

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 #119U** (see insert below) – “My Grief Regard”

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), Q#156-7.

Leader: *Is the (written) word of God to be read by all?*

People: **Although all are not to be permitted to read the word publicly to the congregation,** Deut 31:9,11-13; Neh 8:2-3; 9:3-5

Leader: *Yet all sorts of people are bound to read it apart by themselves,* Deut 17:19; Rev 1:3; John 5:39; Is 34:16

People: **And with their families:** Deut 6:6-9; Gen 18:17,19; Ps 78:5-7

Leader: *To which end, the holy scriptures are to be translated out of the original*

People: **Into vulgar languages.** 1Cor 14:6,9,11-12,15-16,24,27-28

Leader: *How is the (written) word of God to be read?*

People: **The Holy Scriptures are to be read with a high and reverent esteem of them;** Ps 19:10; Neh 8:3-6,10; Ex 24:7; 2Chr 34:27; Is 66:2

Leader: *With a firm persuasion that they are the very word of God,* 2Pet 1:19-21

People: **And that He only can enable us to understand them;** Luke 24:45; 2Cor 3:13-16

Leader: *With desire to know, believe, and obey the will of God revealed in them;* Deut 17:19-20

People: **With diligence,** Acts 17:11

Leader: *And attention to the matter and scope of them;* Acts 8:30,34; Luke 10:26-28

People: **With meditation,** Ps 1:2; 119:97

Leader: *Application, self-denial,* 2Chr 34:21; Prov 3:5; Deut 33:3

People: **And prayer.** Prov 2:1-6; Ps 119:18; Neh 8:6,8

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Haggai 1:12-15

***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 – “Obeying the Voice of the LORD”
(A Sermon Series on The Book of Haggai)

***Hymn #672** (red hymnal) – “Trust and Obey”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

Announcements

- The church would like to thank everyone who helped out with staffing the Grange Fair, it was a good time.
- There are **Bibles** and “*Basics of the Faith*” pamphlets about various theological topics free if you are interested.

Upcoming Special Events

- Starting on **September 1st**, Sunday **Worship** starts at **10:30 AM**.
- On Saturday, **September 7th**, there will be a **picnic** for the church at the Winters' house, starting at noon. (1448 Burt Hill Rd.; Tolland, MA 01034). The Winters' will provide pizza. If you could bring a dish to share, lawn chairs for yourself, and/or your favorite outdoor game, that would be helpful.
- **Sunday School**, for all ages, **starts on September 8th**, With the following classes:
Children's Sunday School classes based on the KVB Publications curriculum.
Pastor Doug will be leading an adult study on the Westminster Larger Catechism.
Verna Aldrich will be leading a women's study on cults.
- **Tuesday Morning Study** starts on **September 10th** from 10:30 AM to noon.
It will be an introduction to medieval theology and reading through sections from Aquinas.
- **Wednesday Evening Study** starts on **September 11th** from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.
It will be an introduction about the origins of the Bible and studying 2Peter and Jude.
- On Saturday, September 21st, there will be a joint Elders & Deacons' meeting at Pastor Doug's house.
- After church on Sunday, **November 10th**, will be the **Annual Meeting**.

ONLINE RESOURCES

<i>TRC's Webpage:</i>	TrinityReformedCT.org
<i>TRC's Facebook Page:</i>	facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
<i>TRC's Youtube Channel:</i>	youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
<i>Pastor Doug's</i>	youtube.com/simplyreformed
<i>Youtube Channels:</i>	youtube.com/@PilgrimsOfPlunder

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests you would like for, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: trcnwprayer@gmail.com. (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

LEADERSHIP

Elders:	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	robert.ensminger@arthurgrossell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	860-283-0224	jhaulenbeek@icloud.com
Deacons:	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
Sunday School:	Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell	Music Coordinator:	Cindy Rines
Clerk:	Sheryl Gabelmann	Treasurer:	Cindy Rines

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Sunday Worship at: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098) at 9:30 AM for the summer.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065 - *Phone:* (860) 238-7399

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org - *Email:* trinityreformedct@gmail.com

Sermon Notes

Haggai 1:12-15
"Obeying the Voice of the LORD"
A Sermon Series on Haggai
August 11, 2024

Haggai 1:12 – The Importance of the Church

- 1) Haggai 1 is speaking to God's people, the Old Testament (OT) Church.
 - a) This is not a call to unbelievers to come to faith.
 - b) It is a call to the leadership of the OT Church and then the people to be faithful.
 - i) Haggai 1:1-2a – *"In the second year of Darius the king, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came by the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, This people says . . .'"*
 - ii) Or from today's sermon, Hag 1:12 – *"Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people . . ."*
 - c) It is speaking to the "visible" Church, that on some level the people already claim to believe and follow the one true God.¹
- 2) The call in Haggai is to a specific historical event: To rebuild the Temple, God's OT House.
- 3) We in the NT Church, are not called to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. That would be blasphemous since the Temple was only a shadow and figure of the reality we have in Christ in the superior New Covenant.

Gal 3:25; 4:9-11; 5:3-4
Col 2:16-17;
Heb 7:22; 8:5-6; 12:24
Heb 10:1-4,11-18
- 4) The broad pattern that Haggai describes still very much applies to the New Covenant, however.
 - a) God speaks to His church, because there will always be a remnant.
 - b) The church obeys in fear.
 - c) God reminds us of His good promises (Gospel) - That He is with His church.
 - d) God stirs up our spirit to honor His House.
- 5) The church will wax and wane throughout history.
 - a) There will be periods of seeming decline:
 - i) Today, which many are calling "Clown World" because it is so insane.
 - ii) Or in the 14th century, when Islam was on the march, the Black Death killed at least 1/3 of Christian Europe and the church was governed by three corrupt popes who excommunicated each other.
 - iii) Or from our sermon text: God's people were just in slavery in Babylon and God's House, the Temple, has been destroyed.
 - b) There will be periods of blessing.
 - i) The glories of the 16th & 17th century Reformation.
(Though many in that period thought it was terrible.)
 - ii) From today's sermon text: God's people have returned.
 - c) More about this in our next sermon series on a section from Revelation.

¹ The **Visible Church** is the church we see, made up of true believers and false believers. We cannot fully judge a person's heart, only God can do that. Let alone know who will persevere in the faith.

The **Invisible Church** is the church God sees, made up of the elect, those who have true faith that will preserve.

- 6) However, there will always be a remnant of true believers.
- a) God promises this in the Old Covenant. Ps 110; Is 10:20ff; Jer 31:7ff; Mic 5:3
 - b) And in the New, as the Lord Jesus Himself promised that Rom 9:27; 11:5
 “the gates of Hades will not overpower it” and that Matt 16:18
 “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matt 28:20
- 7) Our job is not to try to control the future but to be faithful and from trusting in God to be obedient.

Haggai 1:12 – Obedience

- 1) We are justified (made right with God) by grace alone, through faith alone, on account of Christ alone.²
- a) Obedience is not part of our justification (praise God!), however, Rom 3:28
 it is very much part of our sanctification (our daily dying to sin Eph 2:8-9
 and living for Christ). 2Tim 1:9
 - b) Sanctification always follows Justification.
 - c) To paraphrase Calvin: We are justified by faith alone but justifying faith is never alone.³
 - d) It will produce obedience – a love of God Acts 6:7; Rom 16:26; Gal 5:6; Eph 2:8-10
 doing His will. Titus 3:7-8; Heb 11:8; James 2:18-22
- 2) The key thing the faithful do is to remain faithful and obey the Word of God.
- 3) Obeying God’s voice is, of course, fundamental throughout the Old Covenant.⁴
- a) In the Old Testament, God’s voice is heard in several ways.
 - i) Directly. (Garden of Eden, dreams, before the Ark, etc.)
 - ii) By the Law God gives Moses – As we read right before the giving of the Ten Commandments on Sinai: *“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.”* – Exodus 19:5
 - iii) Or by prophets – As we read in our sermon text: *They “obeyed the voice of the LORD their God and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him.”* – Haggai 1:12b
 - b) God speaks and the faithful trust and obey.
- 4) This continues in the New Covenant.
- a) As we talked about last week, prophecy, in the narrow sense, ceased with Heb 1:1-2
 the New Testament. (i.e. a word from God equal to Scripture.)

² Gen 15:6; Ps 143:2; Is 43:7; 46:13; 53:10-12; 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 8:22; 10:43; 13:39; 14:6; 15:10-11; 16:14,31; 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 1:29; 3:4-11; 1Tim 1:16; 2Tim 1:9; 2:25; Titus 3:4-7; Heb 10:38; 11:7,38; 12:2; 1Pet 1:5,21; 1John 5:1,13.

³ *“It is therefore faith alone which justifies, and yet the faith which justifies is not alone: just as it is the heat alone of the sun which warms the earth, and yet in the sun it is not alone, because it is constantly conjoined with light.”* - Antidote to the Council of Trent, Canon XI.

⁴ Gen 22:18; Ex 5:2; 19:5; Deut 30:20; Josh 24:24; 1Sam 15:19-22; 2Kgs 18:12; Ps 81:11; **103:20**; Is 50:10; Jer 3:13,25; 7:23,28; 9:13; 18:10; 22:21; 26:13; 32:23; 35:8; 43:4,7; 44:23; Dan 9:10-14; Hag 1:12.

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| b) Because He who is literally the eternal Word of God has come in the flesh and has given His Spirit to His church. | John 1:1-15,14,18; 8:47;
14:26; 18:37; 20:22 |
| c) This makes the New Covenant superior, because of its clarity, and that we are on the other side of the cross. | Heb 7:22; 8:6; 12:24
Gal 3:25; 1Pet 1:12 |
| i) We have the complete written word of God, the Holy Scriptures, including the New Testament and to obey Christ's apostles is to obey Christ. | Acts 2:42; 5:32; Phil 2:12;
2Thes 1:8; 3:14; Heb 13:17;
James 3:3; 1Pet 1:2; 4:17; 1John 4:6 |
| ii) We have the new ministry of the Spirit, so that we walk by a clearer sense of faith, hope and love in Christ. | Rom 8:1ff; 1Cor 13:1-13;
Gal 5:6,18; 1Pet 4:8 |
| d) Today, hear God's voice in ministry of the word, found in biblical preaching and the administration of the sacraments. | Acts 2:42-43; 6:4;
1Tim 4:13; 1Pet 1:25;
2Tim 3:16-17; 4:1-2 |

Haggai 1:12 – Fear the Lord

- 1) Obedience to God is based on fear.
- 2) The NASB translates Haggai 1:12b as: *“And the people showed reverence for the LORD.”*
 - a) The literal reading is *“And the people feared from before the LORD.”*
 - b) The ESV puts it *“And the people feared the LORD.”*
Or the NET: *“and the people began to respect the LORD.”*
Or the KJV: *“and the people did fear before the LORD.”*
- 3) We are called to fear God.
 - a) This is taught throughout the OT.⁵ As we see in Proverbs 1:7 – *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*
 - b) And throughout the NT.⁶ As we see in Ephesians 5:20-21 – *“always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.”*
- 4) The word here does mean *“fear”* (distressed, frightened, intimidated) and also *“respect”* (reverence, awe, venerate).
 - a) I much prefer the translation *“fear”* because moderns do not understand either *“fear”* or *“respect.”*
 - b) If you asked anyone before the 20th century if *“fear”* and *“respect”* are the same thing they would say *“yes”* without blinking an eye.
 - c) We moderns, because of our hyper-individualism, really have no understanding of fear.
- 5) To fear authority is a good and godly thing.
 - a) If there is no fear of authority then those who are in authority will fear those who are underneath them and all of society will fall apart – As we are seeing today.
 - b) What keeps those in authority in check is a fear of God, who will judge all, especially those who have been given power in this life. James 3:1
 - i) To give an example, God is very clear He avenges those oppressed by the powerful.

⁵ Ex 14:31; Lev 25:17; Deut 6:13,24; 10:12; Josh 4:24; Job 28:28; Ps 76:7-8; 111:10; Prov 1:7; 9:10; 15:33; Eccl 12:13; Jer 10:7; 32:29

⁶ Matt 10:28; Luke 1:50,65; 5:26; 7:16; 12:5; 18:2,4; 23:40; John 9:31; Acts 9:31; 10:2,22,35; 13:16,26,43; 17:4,17; 19:17; Rom 3:18; 2Cor 5:11; 7:1; Col 3:22; Heb 10:31; 1Pet 2:17; Jude 21-23; Rev 11:18; 14:7; 15:4; 19:5.

- ii) Exodus 22:21-24 – *“You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall not afflict any widow or orphan. If you afflict him at all, and if he does cry out to Me, I will surely hear his cry; and My anger will be kindled, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless.”*
 - iii) From our sermon text, all the people, especially the lowly (stranger, women and children), should fear the leaders of Israel (the governor Zerubbabel who has an army, the high priest Jehozadak who can remove you from the fellowship of the saints, the prophet Haggai who can speak God’s word against you) because the leaders have been put in authority by God. Yet the leaders must fear God because they are held to a higher standard., since they have been called by God to lead.
- 6) Though “fear” does mean “respect” the problem with our modern idea of “respect” is that we think it is something that we give.
- a) Such as, “I will respect you if you earn my respect.”
 - b) No! We are called to fear/respect all authority because all authority is from God. Rom 13:1-8
Titus 3:1; 1Pet 2:13-19
- 7) I think a better synonym would be “concerned”, that one is concerned about what will happen if one disobeys.
- a) In our sermon text, OT Israel is still God’s people, however there are consequences for there disobedience, as we read in Haggai 1:1-11 let alone in Deuteronomy 28:15ff.
 - b) So too in the NT church, we are justified by faith alone, however, there are consequences for our disobedience, as we see in how weak the church is this day and age.
 - c) And we should have fear about becoming apostate – those who abandon the faith, and thus, did not have faith at all.
 - i) Just like God divorced the northern kingdom of Samaria in OT times. Jer 3:8
 - ii) Or those fierce warnings in the book of Hebrews to the NT church. Heb 2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:12;
Heb 10:19-39; 12:14-29
 - d) Let us say with fear and trembling, “but by the grace of God go I.”

Haggai 1:13 – God Is With Us

- 1) When God’s people respond in faithful obedience, with godly fear/reverence, God not only reminds us about His Law but also His Gospel.
 - a) Haggai 1:13 – *“Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke by the commission of the LORD to the people saying, “ ‘I am with you,’ declares the LORD.”*
 - b) Throughout the Bible God promises to be with His people.⁷
- 2) This is not something new, it is a reminder that God has always been with His people, even before the creation began.
 - a) As we read in Ephesians 1:4a – *“just as He (God the Father) chose us (God’s people) in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world . . .”*
 - b) Though we use our will to believe in God, this is not of ourselves, it is all of grace – preordained from the beginning.
 - c) This choosing has a purpose, as we continue in Ephesians 1:4b – *“that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love.”*

⁷ Deut 31:6,8; Ps 46:11; Is 41:10; 43:2; Matt 18:20; 28:20; Acts 18:10; Rom 16:20,24; 1Cor 16:23-24; 1Thes 5:28; 2Thes 3:18.

- 3) This is why in the New Covenant, a key component of biblical preaching is to constantly evangelize (literally Gospel-ize) the saints. Reminding them of the Good News of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God.
 - a) Just like Haggai spoke to God's people that God is with them.
 - b) So too NT preachers preach that Christ with us.

Haggai 1:14-15 – The Spiriting Stirring God's People

- 1) This preaching, obeying, fearing and hearing the Gospel has an effect: *“So the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people . . .”*
– Haggai 1:14a
- 2) God will “stir up”, awaken, arouse, His people
Judg 5:12; 1Chr 5:26; 2Chr 21:16; 36:22; Ezra 1:1,5; Job 8:6;
Jer 51:11; Eph 5:14 (Is 26:19; 51:17; 52:1; 60:1); 2Pet 1:13; 3:1
- 3) In our sermon text it is for a particular cause – To rebuild the OT House, the Temple.
Haggai 1:14b-15 – *“and they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the sixth month in the second year of Darius the king.”*
- 4) In the New Covenant, the real Temple, is Christ's spiritual body on earth, the assembled church.
 - a) We, Christians, are still to continue to build God's House, the assembled church.
Matt 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49; Acts 9:31; 1Cor 3:14;
Eph 2:20-22; Col 2:7; Heb 3:4; 1Pet 2:5
 - b) We (the church) do this by being faithful: Worshiping God correctly, daily living as Christ's disciples, and going out into the world and proclaiming Christ.
- 5) This pattern from Haggai continues today and until our Lord's return:
 - a) God speaks to His church by biblical preaching
 - b) The church obeys in fear.
 - i) Yes, it can question unbiblical things, as the godly Bereans did. Acts 17:10-11
 - ii) The main place God has ordained His word to go out is not you reading your Bible in private (which is a good thing) but preaching in God's Church.
 - Disagree? Can you show me, directly, where all Christians are to read their Bibles in private?
 - Again, reading your Bible is very good thing! Please do it! However, for most of history, printed Bibles, let alone universal literacy, was rare. (Both, created by Christians, btw.) Ps 119:15
 - Instead, the Bible focuses on preaching and teaching in the church. Matt 16:18-19; 18:16-20; Acts 2:41-42; 6:2; Rom 10:14-15; Gal 6:6; Eph 4:11-13; Col 4:3; 1Tim 3:15; 4:13; 2Tim 3:14-4:5; Heb 13:17
 - c) God reminds us of His promise that He is with His church. There will always be a remnant.
 - i) Did not the Lord Jesus Himself say that though there will be troubles in this life, and all worldly things will fail, the church built on Him, the Rock, will never fall. Matt 7:24-27
Luke 6:47-49
 - ii) He promised to be with us always.
 - iii) We hear and taste these promises in Gospel preaching and the sacraments.

d) God stirs up our spirit to honor and build His House, which is for us to daily die to sin and to live for Christ.

Rom 6:1ff

6) Look at Acts 9:31 - "*So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.*"

a) Do you understand how peace, fear of God and comfort in the Spirit go together? You should, if you have a cross focused, Christ-centric theology.

b) As the Lord Jesus said to the church in Laodicea, "*Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*" – Revelation 3:19-22