

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
August 18, 2024

"But Jesus turning and seeing her said, 'Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well.' At once the woman was made well." – Matthew 9:22



trinityreformedct.org

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Psalm 27:11-14

Leader: Teach me Your way, O LORD,

People: And lead me in a level path

*Leader: Because of my foes. Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,*

People: And such as breathe out violence.

*Leader: I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness
of the LORD*

People: In the land of the living.

Leader: Wait for the LORD;

People: Be strong

Leader: And let your heart take courage;

People: Yes, wait for the LORD.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – John 16:33

***Hymn #575** (red hymnal) – “Soldiers of Christ, Arise”

Scripture Reading – Deuteronomy 31:1-9; John 16:23-33

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 #35A** (see insert below) – “Strive, LORD”

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 Confession of Faith (1646 AD), Chapter 14.

<i>Leader:</i>	<i>The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts,</i>	Heb 10:39 2Cor 4:13 Eph 1:17-19; 2:8
People:	And is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word,	Rom 10:14,17
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>By which also, and by the administration of the sacraments, and prayer,</i>	1Pet 2:2; Acts 20:32 Rom 4:11; Luke 17:5
People:	It is increased and strengthened.	Rom 1:16-17
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>By this faith, a Christian believes to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word,</i>	John 4:42; 1Thes 2:13 1John 5:10
People:	For the authority of God Himself speaking therein;	Acts 24:14
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>And acts differently upon that</i>	
People:	Which each particular passage thereof contains;	
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>Yielding obedience to the commands,</i>	Rom 16:26
People:	Trembling at the threatenings,	Is 66:2
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>And embracing the promises of God for this life,</i>	Heb 11:13
People:	And that which is to come.	1Tim 4:8
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>But the principal acts of saving faith are</i>	John 1:12
People:	Accepting, receiving, and resting upon Christ alone	Acts 16:31
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>For justification, sanctification, and eternal life,</i>	Gal 2:20
People:	By virtue of the covenant of grace.	Acts 15:11; Matt. 8:10
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>May be often and many ways assailed, and weakened,</i>	Luke 22:31-32
People:	But gets the victory:	Eph 6:16; 1John 5:4-5
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>Growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance,</i>	Heb 6:11-12
People:	Through Christ,	Heb 10:22
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>Who is both the author and finisher</i>	
People:	Of our faith.	Heb 12:2

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Haggai 2:1-5

***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 – “*Courage*”

(A Sermon Series on The Book of Haggai)

***Hymn #572** (red hymnal) – “Onward, Christian Soldiers”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

All are welcome for Fellowship & Food downstairs after Worship

Announcements

- For those interested in Pastor Doug's Sunday School class (starting on Sept 8th), or just in theology in general, the book we will be reading, The Westminster Larger Catechism with Scripture Proofs, is in and it costs \$10.00. (If money is tight, please still ask for the book.)

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 womens 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

Sermon Notes

Haggai 2:1-5
"Courage"
A Sermon Series on Haggai
August 18, 2024

Introduction - Recap of the Timeline of Haggai the Prophet

- 1) **1446 BC** = The Exodus begins – Moses leads God’s people out of slavery in Egypt and heads to the Promised Land.
- 2) **c.955 BC** = Solomon finishes building the first Temple, called "Solomon's Temple". 2Chr 7:10
(7th month, 23rd day)
- 3) **586 BC** = The Babylonians conquer the Southern Jewish Kingdom of Judah. 2Chr 36:10-21
 - a) The Temple, God's House, is destroyed
 - b) The people are taken into captivity into Babylon.
 - c) As per God's judgment against His people for their sins.
- 4) **538 BC** = The Persians conquer the Babylonians. 2Chr 36:22-23
 - a) The Persian kings Cyrus, and then Darius, allow the Jews to go back home.
 - b) See the Books of Ezra & Nehemiah.
- 5) **538 BC** = The first group of Jews return under Zerubbabel. Ezra 1:3; 2:1-2
- 6) **August 29, 520 BC** (6th month, 1st day, 2nd year of Darius) = Haggai delivers his first message calling the leaders of Israel to rebuild God's House. Hag 1:1-11
- 7) **September 21, 520 BC** (6th month, 24th day, 2nd year of Darius) = Israel responds with obedience and fear by the moving of the Holy Spirit and promises from God that He is with His people, thus the work begins again on the Temple. Hag 1:12-15a
- 8) **October 17, 520 BC** (7th month, 21st day) = Haggai proclaims his second recorded message to Israel. Hag 1:15b-2:9

Haggai’s Second Message – A New Problem – Haggai 2:1-3

- 1) Remember that the prophet's message is directly from God.
 - a) Haggai 2:1 - "*On the twenty-first of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet saying . . .*"
 - b) Like before, Haggai is sent to governor Zerubbabel, the high priest Joshua, and for the first time the people are directly mentioned as "*the remnant of the people.*" Hag 1:1
Hag 2:2
- 2) But why this second message? Less than two months after the first one?

3) Because there is a problem.

- a) The Lord says, "*Who is left among you who saw this temple (literally "house") in its former glory? And how do you see it now? Does it not seem to you like nothing in comparison?*" - Haggai 2:3
- b) Note a few things about the grammar, first:
 - i) "Temple" is literally "house", this is "God's House".
 - ii) "*This temple in its former glory*" means in the mind of God that Solomon's Temple and the new Temple (called Zerubbabel's Temple, or the Second Temple) are one and the same.
- c) The problem is that this "new" / "second" Temple looks literally like nothing compared to the old first one built by Solomon.

4) This clearly has left many of the people disappointed.

- a) It has been 66 years since the old Temple was destroyed.
 - i) Since Haggai said "*does it not seem to you*", instead of "*does it not seem to us*" this implies Haggai had not seen the old Temple.
 - ii) Maybe he was younger? At least 30+?
- b) They are working on something that seems less glorious than the old Temple of memory.
- c) So their initial desire has waned.

God Responds – Haggai 2:4-5

1) God, through Haggai, speaks to Zerubbabel, then Joshua, and then all the people of the land, and tells them . . .

- a) To "*take courage*" Hag 2:4
(More about that later.)
- b) To "*work*", i.e. keep on rebuilding God's House. Hag 2:4
- c) Why? Because again God reminds them that He is with them. Hag 2:4
 - i) Haggai 2:4b – "*for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts.*"
 - ii) Remember, God's personal name (LORD = YHWH) literally means "*I Am.*" Ex 3:13-14

2) Then God reminds them of the history of His promises. Ex 33:12-14; 34:8-10; Is 63:11

- a) Haggai 2:5 - "*As for the promise (literally "word") which I made (literally "cut with") you when you came out of Egypt, My Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear!*"
 - i) The word for "*promise*" is literally "*word.*" Since Ps 119:160; John 17:17;
God cannot lie all His words are true. Titus 1:2; 2Tim 2:13; Heb 6:18
 - ii) The "*I made*" in the "*the promise which I made you*" is literally the word "cut".
 - So, it is "*the promise which I cut with you.*"
 - This has imagery to the word "covenant".
 - A biblical covenant is a "*bond in blood sovereignly administered.*"
Binding the two groups (God & His people) together in blood.
 - Blood sacrifices happened before and after the giving Ex 18:12; 20:24
of the Law and the building of the Temple(s). 1Kgs 8:3; Ezra 3:1; 8:35

- b) Right after the Exodus (leaving Egypt) and right before giving the Law at Mount Sinai, God said to Israel: "*You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 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.*" – Exodus 19:4-6
 - c) With the consecration of the OT priests, God likewise promised: "*I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God. They shall know that I am the LORD their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the LORD their God.*" – Exodus 29:45-46
 - e) Remember King David's words to his son, and heir, Solomon, who would build the Temple: "*Then David said to his son Solomon, 'Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished.'*" – 1Chr 28:20
- 3) God reminds them His Spirit has always been with them, thus they should not fear.

New Covenant Application

- 1) How do we apply Haggai 2:1-5 today?
- 2) As we have pondered for the last few Sundays, we (the NT church) are not called to build a Temple in Jerusalem.
 - a) That Temple, like all the things of the Old Covenant, are mere shadows and figures of the reality we have in Christ and His New Covenant.
 - b) The true Temple, in this age, is Christ's spiritual body on earth, the assembled and organized church.
- 3) We are called to build God's House here and now.
 - a) This is done by focusing on worship, especially on the Lord's Day (i.e. Sunday).
 - i) To have a public gathering for the ministry of the Word.
 - ii) Centered around the reading of Scripture, the explanation of God's Law, the proclamation of the Gospel, the administration of the Sacraments, adorned with prayer, singing and offerings.
 - b) Followed by discipleship: Training, encouraging and correcting the saints.
 - c) Finally, there is outreach: Proclaiming the Gospel to the fallen world, calling them to repent and be in Christ's church, which is adorned with works of charity and mercy.
- 4) However, it is easy to get distracted by the world.
 - a) To judge things, especially the church by worldly eyes.
 - b) Like Israel did in Haggai 2:2, that the new Temple doesn't look that impressive.
 - c) Were the early Puritans who settled in New England tempted by the same thing?

- i) They left the grand churches of England (e.g. St. Paul's Cathedral of London or York Minster in North Yorkshire) and the great colleges for the training of clergy (e.g. Oxford & Cambridge).
 - ii) They founded, at first, such rustic churches as First Church in Boston, or First Church of Christ in Hartford, and such backwater schools as Harvard and Yale.
- 5) Are we distracted by such things?
 - a) Or today, when we look around and the church looks so weak.
 - i) Especially when we remember the old days.
 - ii) For example, in Connecticut, there was a time when our great doctrinal statement, the Savoy Declaration of Faith, was officially adopted by the government of Connecticut as the colony's official statement of faith, since the Congregational Church was the official church of state sponsored church of Connecticut.
 - iii) All those institutions mentioned above (St. Paul's, York Minister, First Church, Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard and Yale) are essentially pagan and anti-Christ.
 - b) You might be thinking I chose to preach through Haggai because I had the old church in mind, and since we are now in a Grange (which we are thankful for!).
 - i) I wasn't. I didn't notice this theme until I read chapter 2 closely this week.
 - ii) However, that idea could still be a temptation.
 - c) Clearly, Israel was tempted by such thinking in Haggai 2.
- 6) The problem is focusing on the world instead of the Word.
 - a) Remember the warnings from the Parable of the Sower. Matt 13:1-23
 - b) Also remember Christ's mercy, such as when He told Peter to walk on water. Matt 14:28-31
 - i) Matthew 14:29-31 – *“And He (Jesus) said, ‘Come!’ And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”*
 - ii) Praise God, that Christ is so merciful to His saints!
- 7) The answer to this temptation is simple and direct, as we read in Haggai 2:
 - a) Focus on the work at hand.
 - b) Remember God is with us because He has always been with His people.
 - i) His Holy Spirit guides and leads us.
 - ii) As we clearly see in Scripture and the big picture of history.
- 8) Our current duty is to be faithful and do the work God has called us to do in this moment.
 - a) God in His providence, might not have us be in a great time.
 - b) Maybe we are to be but the remnant of this period in the history of His people.
 - c) Like the generation of Haggai 2, who would not see the grandeur of the New Temple.
 - i) Which would be greatly expanded by Herod many centuries later.
 - ii) Let alone the true fulfillment of Christ and His church.

- 9) Think about governor Zerubbabel, who is the first person that Haggai's prophecy is directed to.
- a) Zerubbabel was royalty:
 - i) Descendant of the great king David. Matt 1:12; Luke 3:27
 - ii) Grandson of king Jehoiachin of Judah, and his legal successor and heir. 1Chr 3:17-19
 - b) In a worldly sense, Zerubbabel might have had things to be distracted by.
 - i) He had never seen the glories of the old Temple, since he was a child of the Captivity – “Zerubbabel” literally means “offspring of Babylon”.
 - ii) He couldn't be king because Judah was a client state to the Persian Empire.
 - iii) He probably died before the dedication of the rebuilt Temple, since he disappears from the historical record. Ezra 6:16ff
 - c) Yet God was pleased with Zerubbabel – he responded in faith. Ezra 3:8-10; Hag 2:23
 - d) From the lineage of Zerubbabel will come Jesus Christ. Matt 1:12; Luke 3:27
- 10) Israel is not to fear, because they are called to be courageous.

Courage

- 1) Webster's 1828 Dictionary definition of “courage” as:

COURAGE, noun [Latin, the heart.] Bravery; intrepidity; that quality of mind which enables men to encounter danger and difficulties with firmness, or without fear or depression of spirits; valor; boldness; resolution. It is a constituent part of fortitude; but fortitude implies patience to bear continued suffering.
- 2) Courage is related to being brave and not fearful.
- 3) The word for “courage” in Haggai 2:4 is literally “to be strong.”
In this case, not in a physical sense, but in a moral sense.
- 4) Courage is more than just martial courage in the face of possible death.
- 5) It is doing the right thing, which means obeying God, in the face of real possible loss or temptation.
- 6) It is interesting that Zerubbabel, Joshua, and the people, are called to have courage.
 - a) There is no direct violent threat: No invasion, rebellion, etc.
 - b) However, they are to have courage against the false thinking of the world.
 - c) And to act even when it doesn't seem like God's commands will be successful.

How to Have Courage

- 1) Courage is easier when done together. Num 11:16-17,25; Acts 28:15;
Rom 5:7; 2Cor 7:16; Eph 4:11-13
 - a) Especially when the leaders are courageous.
 - b) Haggai's prophecy is to the governor, high priest and then the people.
- 2) Courage is a particularly masculine trait.
 - a) Don't believe me? Try calling a woman and then a man a coward and note their reactions.

- b) Let alone the clear teaching of Scripture. Deut 22:5; Num 26:2; 1Sam 4:9; 2Sam 10:12; Is 3:8,12; 13:7; Mic 4:9-10; Nah 3:13; 1Cor 16:13
- c) It is one of the reasons the church is to be govern by a plurality of male elders. Rom 15:18
- 3) Courage is proscribed (fenced) by God's word. Rom 15:18
- a) To be courageous and do evil is not being strong in the Lord.
- b) We are to be courageous for the Kingdom. Mark 15:43; Acts 23:11
- 4) Courage is tied to faith in Christ, His voice and the Gospel. Ps 27:14; Matt 9:2,22; 14:27; Mark 6:50; 10:49; John 16:33; Acts 27:25; 2Cor 5:6-8; Eph 6:10ff; Phil 1:14; Heb 13:5-6
- a) 2Corinthians 5:6-9 – *“Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight—we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.”*
- b) John 16:33 – *“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”*