

# Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for  
September 1, 2024

*"Who (i.e. what man) can make the clean out  
of the unclean? No one!" – Job 14:4*



[trinityreformedct.org](http://trinityreformedct.org)

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“\*” = Please stand if you are able.

## Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

### Call to Worship – Psalm 24:1-6

*Leader: The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains,*

**People: The world, and those who dwell in it.**

*Leader: For He has founded it upon the seas*

**People: And established it upon the rivers.**

*Leader: Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?*

**People: And who may stand in His holy place?**

*Leader: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood*

**People: And has not sworn deceitfully.**

*Leader: He shall receive a blessing from the LORD*

**People: And righteousness from the God of his salvation.**

*Leader: This is the generation of those who seek Him,*

**People: Who seek Your face—even Jacob.**

## Prayer of Invocation and Confession

### Gospel Absolution Text – John 15:1-4

**\*Hymn #485** (red hymnal) – “O Thou That Hear'st When Sinners Cry”

### Scripture Reading – Ezekiel 44:1-30

**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 #51D** (see insert below) – “From My Sins, O Hide Your Face”

## 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), 108-109.

*Leader: Question: What does the Seventh Commandment  
(you shall not commit adultery) teach us?*

**People: That all uncleanness is accursed of God:** Lev 18:27-28

*Leader: and that therefore we must with all our hearts detest the same,* Jude 1:23

**People: and live chastely and temperately,** 1Thes 4:3-5

*Leader: whether in holy wedlock,*

**People: or in single life.** Heb 13:4; 1Cor 7:7-9,27

*Leader: Question: Does God forbid in this commandment,  
only adultery, and such like gross sins?*

**People: Since both our body and soul are temples of the Holy Spirit,**

*Leader: He commands us to preserve them pure and holy:*

**People: Therefore he forbids all unchaste actions,**

*Leader: Gestures, words, thoughts, desires,* Eph 5:3-4; 1Cor 6:18-20; Matt 5:27-28

**People: And whatever can entice men thereto.** Eph 5:18; 1Cor 15:33

## Ministry of the Word

### Prayer of Illumination

**\*Sermon Text** – Haggai 2:10-19

**\*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** – “Unclean and Clean”

(A Sermon Series on The Book of Haggai)

## Ministry of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

### Invitation & Warning

#### Prayer

**Scripture** – Sections from Ephesians 5:25-32 – “Christ . . . loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might **sanctify** her, having **cleansed** her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless . . . for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ . . . does the church, because we are members of His body . . . This **mystery** (“sacramentum” in Latin) is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.”

### Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

**\*Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

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*All are welcome for Fellowship & Food downstairs after Worship*

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## **Announcements**

- For those interested in Pastor Doug's Sunday School class (starting on Sept 8<sup>th</sup>), 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.)
- If any parent thinks their child is mature enough to take the Lord's Supper they should see Pastor Doug. Soon there will be a class, or two, for the child after church with Pastor Doug.

## **Upcoming Special Events**

- On Saturday, **September 7<sup>th</sup>**, 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 8<sup>th</sup>**, 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 10<sup>th</sup>** 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 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a joint Elders & Deacons' meeting at Pastor Doug's house.
- The **Annual Meeting** will be after church in November, the date to be announced.  
(The original posted date might change.)

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## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

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|-------------------------------|---|
| <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](mailto:trcnwprayer@gmail.com). (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

## **LEADERSHIP**

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

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## Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Worship Starts At: 10:30 AM (9:30 AM in the summer)

Sunday Worship At: Winchester Grange (100 Newfield Rd; Winchester Center, CT 06098)

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

Webpage: trinityreformedct.org – Email: trinityreformedct@gmail.com

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## Sermon Notes

Haggai 2:10-19

“Unclean and Clean”

A Sermon Series on The Book of Haggai

September 1, 2024

### Introduction

1) It is 520 BC.

- a) Israel, God’s Old Testament church, has returned to their homeland from captivity in Babylon by the grace of God, through the Persian emperors (Cyrus, Darius) who had conquered the evil Babylonians. 2Chr 36:10-23  
Ezra 1:3;  
Ezra 2:1-2
- b) There is a problem, God House’s, the OT Temple, has not been rebuilt. Hag 1:4
- c) God sends prophets, like Haggai and Zechariah to command the rebuilding of His house. Hag 1:1-11;  
Zech 1:7ff

2) The Book of Haggai is broken up into several sermons delivered by Haggai.

- a) In the 1<sup>st</sup> Sermon (August 29, 520 BC) Haggai calls for the governor and high priest to rebuild the Temple. Hag 1:1-11
  - i) The reason why the people are toiling in life is because God’s House is not been (re)built. Hag 1:5-11
  - ii) Israel responds in faith and they start the work again. Hag 1:12-15
- b) In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sermon (October 17, 520 BC) is preached because the work has slowed, the people are not impressed by the new Temple. Hag 2:3
  - i) Haggai tells Israel to have courage and keep on working. Hag 2:4-5
  - ii) Also, God promises the glory of this House will be greater. Hag 2:6-9

3) This 3<sup>rd</sup> sermon is from December 18, 520. (“*the twenty-fourth of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius*” – Hag 2:10b)

- a) Two months have past since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sermon.
- b) Haggai’s main point of this sermon is that:  
uncleanness/impurity/sin/transgression/defilement is easier to spread than cleanliness/purity/holiness/righteousness,  
therefore and God’s people are to be holy, clean, because God is Holy.
- c) Leviticus 19:1-2 – “*Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ‘Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.’*”
  - i) Though there is a lot in the Bible about the love of God, there is far more about the holiness of God.
  - ii) To be holy is to be “set apart”, “consecrated” and for created things to be “dedicated to God” (which is why God is a jealous God). Ex 20:5; 34:14;  
Deut 4:24

## Haggai's Third Sermon – Haggai 2:10-19

- 1) First, as always note that a prophet in the Bible speaks, it is God speaking.
  - a) Haggai 2:10a-11b – *“the word of the LORD came to Haggai the prophet, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts . . .’*
  - b) The main job of the biblical prophet is to literally speak God’s word.
  - c) Today, this special, universal, and authoritative revelation is found only in Scripture in the New Covenant. 1Cor 4:6;  
2Tim 3:14-4:2
- 2) Haggai asks the priests simple (for the priests) leading questions, to make a point.
  - a) Remember the priests’ main job is to offer sacrifices to maintain God’s House. (see book of Leviticus)
  - b) They are experts in the Law, and especially the Ceremonial Law, which is about being ritually clean before God. Lev 10:5,10-11
    - i) Which they are to administer, protect and teach the people.
    - ii) Ezekiel 44:23 – *“Moreover, they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.”*
- 3) Haggai’s first question is: *“Ask now the priests for a **ruling** (the word here is literally “Torah”, the Law): ‘If a man carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and touches bread with this fold, or cooked food, wine, oil, or any other food, will it become holy?’”* – Haggai 2:11b-12a.
  - a) We read in Exodus 29 that during the consecration of the first altar for the Tabernacle (the portable Temple during Moses’ time) that it had the power to sanctify whatever it touches, especially the animals sacrificed on it.

*Exodus 29:37-38 – “For seven days you shall make atonement for the altar and consecrate it; then the altar shall be most holy, and whatever touches the altar shall be holy. Now this is what you shall offer on the altar: two one year old lambs each day, continuously.”*
  - b) Haggai’s question is asking: What if the priest took the holy meat that was on the altar, put it in the folds of his garment, and then touched normal food, would that normal food become holy?
  - c) The answer, if you know the OT Law, is pretty easy, and the priests give the right answer.
  - d) Haggai 2:12b – *“And the priests answered, ‘No.’”*
  - e) Can cleanness / holiness be transferred? The answer is “no.”
- 4) Then we get another similar leading question: *“If one who is unclean from a corpse touches any of these, will the latter become unclean?”* – Haggai 2:13b
  - a) This question is now in the opposite: Can uncleanness be transferred?
  - b) Touching a dead body, in the Old Covenant, made you ceremonially unclean. Lev 11:24-28,39-40  
Lev 22:4-6
  - c) And if an unclean person touches something clean, that thing becomes unclean. Lev 5:2-3; 7:21; 22:5-6

*Numbers 19:22 – “Furthermore, anything that the unclean person touches shall be unclean; and the person who touches it shall be unclean until evening.”*

- d) The clear answer is: Yes, that unclean thing makes anything else unclean.
- i) As the priests correctly answer in Haggai.
  - ii) Haggai 2:13 – *“And the priests answered, ‘It will become unclean.’”*
- 5) Again, the main point is clear: It is far easier to spread uncleanness than it is to spread holiness.
- 6) Haggai then proclaims: *“‘So is this people. And so is this nation before Me,’ declares the LORD, ‘and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.’”* – Hag 2:14b
- a) The problem is not a dramatic sin in the narrow sense.
  - b) But their lazy, half-hearted approach to rebuilding God’s House.
- 7) As like from the 1<sup>st</sup> sermon in Hag 1:5-6,9-11, the Lord reminds the people that they have reaped little because God has *“smote . . . every work of your hands”*. – Hag 2:17
- a) And yet they did not return to God wholeheartedly. Hag 2:17
  - b) Therefore, they are to *“consider your ways.”* Hag 1:5,7; 2:15,18
- 8) God is still with them, as He says, *“Yet from this day on I will bless you.”* – Hag 2:19b
- 9) To better understand this text, we need to ponder the biblical concept of cleanness.

### **Cleanness / Uncleanness in the Old Testament**

- 1) The concept of cleanness / uncleanness is a very important OT concept.
- 2) It is directly related to sin but is not the same thing. Lev 16:30; Lam 1:8; Is 64:6
  - a) There are different kinds, or to put it crassly, “levels” of uncleanness.
    - i) Certain foods were unclean. (ravens, vultures, pigs, camels, etc.) Lev 11:1-19  
Hence the Kosher laws of modern Judaism.
    - ii) Things like skin diseases (leprosy) and/or touching dead bodies were considered very unclean. Lev 11:25–32; 13:11  
Num 19:11.14
    - iii) While such overt sins like idolatry or sacrificial murder made the land unclean. Ex 20:3-6,13; Ps 106:38;  
Lam 1:8; Ezek 36:18
  - b) The big reason why there is uncleanness (to be defiled / fouled / unfit) is because we live in a fallen world where everything is corrupt. [Our bodies, our inner being (i.e. heart), the physical world, the spiritual world, etc.] Gen 3:14-19,24  
Deut 28:15-68  
Rom 3:10-20,23  
Eph 2:1-3
  - c) Think of unclean hands or unclean foods or unclean skin – like leprosy Ex 30:19-21; Lev 15:11; Deut 21:6; Ps 26:6  
Lev 11:1-47; Deut 14:3–21  
Lev 13:1-14:57; 2Kgs 5:1ff; Matt 8:2-3
    - i) Those things exist because we live in a fallen world.
    - ii) And what it touches makes other clean things unclean, befouled and unfit.
    - iii) A murderer, and a surgeon, would have bloody hands for very different reasons, yet both are unclean.
      - The blood on their hands is because of the fall. (There is no need for surgeons in heaven!) Rev 21:4
      - Both are unclean to go about in public, let alone before God.
      - And a surgeon who doesn’t obey health standards required after a surgery is clearly sinning.

- 3) We moderns tend to focus on the practical implications of the cleanliness laws of the OT.
  - a) It is true they helped an ancient, pre-refrigeration, pre-modern medicine, people.
  - b) Forbidding eating shell-fish in the ancient Mideast makes sense. Lev 11:9-10; Deut 14:9-10  
Let alone isolating someone who had leprosy.
  - c) Though this practical concern is found in the OT, and shows God's love and mercy, it is not the main concern of the Ceremonial Laws about uncleanness.
- 4) The cleanness/uncleanness laws are first and foremost about the holiness of God, and how repulsive is sin and its effects, are to God. Is 52:1; Ezek 44:9; Rev 21:27; 22:14ff
  - a) Sin is not just breaking God's rules, i.e. "lawlessness." 1John 3:4  
(Which is bad enough!)
  - b) It is a condition within us, that we are fallen: Eph 2:1-3  
Physically and spiritually.
  - c) It is like a disease. We do bad things because we have a bad heart. Ps 51  
Matt 15:10-20
  - d) And this corruption has affected all the created order as we read in Genesis 3.
  - e) Thus when the faithful Isaiah sees God even indirectly he proclaims: "*Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*" – Isaiah 6:5b
- 5) You can't have something dirty next to something clean, lest the clean thing become dirty.
  - a) That what is dirty cannot be made purely clean in this fallen world.
  - b) Job 14:4 – "*Who (i.e. what man) can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!*"
- 6) Haggai's point, in his 3<sup>rd</sup> Sermon, is that the people need to have a zeal for God.
  - a) This means a zeal for God's House.
  - b) And thus a zeal to be clean before God.
  - c) Which in the OT is only through the Ceremonial Laws. Lev 11:44-47; 2Chr 29:5
- 7) Leviticus has a great example, where God instructs Aaron, the first of the (Levitical) priests.
  - a) Leviticus 10:8-11 – "*The LORD then spoke to Aaron, saying, 'Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you will not die—it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations— and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean, and so as to teach the sons of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them through Moses.'*"
  - b) Why are the priests forbidden to drink alcohol?
    - i) Because they minister to the Lord in His House.
    - ii) Especially by offering sacrifices, which is the central element of OT worship.
  - c) Note that God works through covenants and generations.
  - d) God's ways are forever.
    - i) The perpetual nature of this worship is fulfilled in Christ.
    - ii) More about that in a bit.
  - e) Notice how the "unclean and the clean" are related to the "holy and the profane"
  - f) One key purpose of the priests is to teach God's people "all the statutes" which are primarily about staying holy/clean while avoiding being profane/unclean.

- 8) There are numerous rituals to make one ceremonially clean in the OT.
- a) To give two examples:
    - i) Washing with water for touching a dead body. Lev 15:27
    - ii) Or sprinkling with hyssop dipped in water made clean the tent in which someone had died. Num 19:14ff
  - b) The main way something, and in particular for God's people in the worship of God, is made clean is by the ritual offering and application of blood.
    - i) Thus the extreme focus on sacrifices in the Old Testament. Lev 1:5; 16:14,19;  
Ex 12:7; Ezek 43:20; Heb 9:25
    - ii) Again, read the OT Book of Leviticus and then the NT Book of Hebrews.
- 9) But what about cleanness & uncleanness now for us in the New Covenant?

### **Cleanness & Uncleanness in the New Covenant**

- 1) First, God has not changed between Testaments/Covenants. Rev 16:13-16
- a) He is the same holy God who hates all sin and uncleanness.
  - b) Remember how the Lord Jesus beat the merchants and money changers outside the Temple because He had zeal for God's House. John 2:13-22  
Ps 69:9
  - c) Or, the amazing description about the future, perfect, new heavens and new earth ends with this warning/promise: *"and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."* – Rev 21:27
  - d) The NT, especially the Lord Jesus in the Gospels, speaks much more about hell than the OT.
    - i) As in the Parable of the Marriage Feast. Matt 22:1-14
    - ii) What happens to the person who shows up at the King's Table spiritually unclean. (As shown by not dressing appropriately to be in the King's presence.)
    - iii) Matthew 22:13-14 – *"Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."*
- 2) One of the differences between the Covenants is the clarity.
- a) The earthly, physical, things of the OT (temples, altars, sacrifices, priests, etc.) are but shadows and figures of the reality that is in Christ. Col 2;  
Heb 8-10
  - b) Though the OT does speak about true defilement that comes from within, the NT focuses on uncleanness coming from our internal spiritual condition.
    - i) The Lord Jesus said true uncleanness comes from the inside. Matt 12:34; 15:11,18-20;  
Mark 7:14-23
    - ii) Mark 7:20b-21a – *"That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil . . ."*
- 3) As we read in NT Books like Galatians and Hebrews, the OT Ceremonial Law could never truly make anyone clean. Heb 9:9-14, 21-28;  
Heb 10:1-4,11
- a) We need the perfect sacrifice, through the perfect High Priest, to make us clean.



- b) Romans 8:3-4 – *“For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”*
- c) The only way we can be clean is through Christ. John 15:3; 17:17
- d) And if clean through Christ then truly clean!
- 4) Praise God we have such clarity of Christ’s perfect forgiveness.
- a) Praise God we are no longer under the Ceremonial Law! Matt 15:11; Mark 7:19; Acts 10:14-15; Rom 14:2,14ff,20; 1Cor 10:25ff; 2Cor 5:17; Gal 3:24-25; 1Tim 4:3-4ff; Titus 1:15; Heb 8:11
- b) Romans 14:14a – *“I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself. . .”*
- 5) We have not been freed to sin, or to live as we please, but to live by the Spirit. Rom 6:19; 1Cor 5:7; 1Thes 4:7; 2Tim 2:21; **Heb 10:19-25**; James 4:8-10; 2Pet 1:5-9; 1John 1:6-10

## **Conclusion**

- 1) This perfect cleanliness, forgiveness, salvation is proclaimed to us in preaching of the Word and the sacraments.
- 2) Which should cause us to daily rest in Christ and live by the Spirit.
- 3) Finally, hear about the great feast we are now invited to, which represents the future Marriage Feast: Revelation 19:7-10 – *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, ‘Write, Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God.’”*