

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
October 27, 2024

Reformation Sunday

*"You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house
for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to
God through Jesus Christ." – 1Peter 2:5*



trinityreformedct.org

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Revelation 1:4-8

Leader: John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

People: Grace to you and peace,

Leader: From Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits

People: Who are before His throne,

Leader: And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead,

People: And the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Leader: To Him who loves us and released us from our sins

People: By His blood

Leader: And He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father

People: To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him,

People: Even those who pierced Him;

Leader: And all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him.

People: So it is to be. Amen.

Leader: I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God,

People: Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Isaiah 61:6

***Hymn #92** (red hymnal) – “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

Scripture Reading – Isaiah 42:1-13

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 #33A (red hymnal) – “With Gladness in the 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 Larger Catechism, Q#63.

Leader: What are the special privileges of the visible church?

People: Of being under God’s special care and government;

Is 4:5-6, 1Tim 4:10

Leader: Of being protected and preserved in all ages,

Ps 115:1-2,9; Is 31:4-5

People: Notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies;

Zech 12:2-4,8,9

Leader: And of enjoying the communion of saints,

People: The ordinary means of salvation,

Acts 2:39,42

Leader: And offers of grace by Christ to all members of it in the ministry of the gospel,

Ps 147:19-20

People: Testifying, that whosoever believes in Him

Rom 9:4; Eph 4:11-12

Leader: Shall be saved, and excluding none

Mark 16:15-16

People: That will come unto Him.

John 6:37

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

*Sermon Text – Revelation 5:8-10

*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 – “Priestly Work”

(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

*Hymn #347 (red hymnal) – “The Church’s One Foundation”

*Benediction – Numbers 6:24-26

All are welcome for Fellowship & Food downstairs after Worship

Upcoming Special Events

- The **Annual Meeting** will be held after church on November 17th.
- The 2nd Annual Calvinist **Christmas Party** will be at the Grange on Friday, Dec 6th starting at 6:30 PM. It is a pot-luck, so if you could bring a dish it would be helpful.

Regular Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i>	9:00 – c.10:00 AM	Sunday School Children’s curriculum: KVB Publications Women’s Study: Study on cults Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism
	10:30 – c.11:40 AM c.11:40 AM	Worship (Lord’s Supper on the 1 st Sunday of the month) Coffee Hour Fellowship
<i>Tuesday</i>	10:30 AM – Noon	Tuesday Classics Study (on Calvin’s <u>Institutes</u>) at Pastor Doug’s house
<i>Wednesday</i>	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Wednesday Bible Study (on Exodus) at Pastor Doug’s house
<i>Friday</i>	6:30 - ??? PM	Young Adult Discussion Group at Pastor Doug’s house (1 st & 3 rd Fridays)
<i>Saturday</i>	morning	Prayer Group at the Gabelmann’s. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

ONLINE RESOURCES

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

INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, 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	203-709-0784	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

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

Sermon Notes

Revelation 5:8-10

“Priestly Work”

A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7

October 27, 2024

Introduction

- 1) Revelation is a beautiful book.
 - a) It itself commands to be read, obeyed, and promises blessings.
 - b) Revelation 1:3 – *“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”*
- 2) Revelation does deal with the important sub-study of theology called “eschatology” – “the study of last things / the end times.” (i.e. death, afterlife, end of the age, etc.)
- 3) However, it is a mistake to think Revelation is only about eschatology.
 - a) The main focus of Book of Revelation is “*the revelation of Jesus Christ*” (Rev 1:1):
 - b) To encourage His church.
 - c) With the call to remain faithful and endure persecution.
 - d) Knowing and trusting that the Lord Jesus promises: *“Blessed is he who heeds (i.e. remains faithful) the words of the prophecy of this book.”* – Rev 22:7
- 4) If one only focuses on eschatology one misses the many blessings of Revelation:
 - a) It’s one of the great books about “theology proper” – the study of God Himself.
 - i) We learn about the Christ we are dealing with right now and what He is doing.
 - Instead of only thinking of baby Jesus, or the gentle Galilean carpenter, in our minds, Who existed in the past.
 - As oppose to the sovereign all-powerful enthroned Lion like Lamb, who holds His people in His right hand, and is unfolding all of history for God’s glory, by going forth and conquering, by putting His enemies under His feet, thus bringing salvation to all His people, and will return at the end of age, to destroy all His enemies, and ushering in His perfect kingdom.
 - ii) Revelation is one of the great Trinitarian books in the Bible.

(That there is only one God in three coequal and co-eternal Persons:
Father, Son & Holy Spirit.)
- b) Revelation is a great book about the sovereignty of God.

And how God works through primary and secondary causes.
- c) Revelation is one of the great books to understand NT worship.
 - i) Last week we talked about prayer.
 - ii) This week we will talk about singing and music.
- d) Revelation is one of the great books to understand the church.
- e) Revelation is one of the great books to understand sanctification (the life long walk in holiness by dying to sin and living for Christ) and how to remain faithful and what we should be doing.

Rev 1:12-16;
5:5-7;
6:1-2;
7:9-10,17;
19:11ff;
22:1-3

- 5) Because of the special insights given to us in Revelation about God, and reality itself, it creates in us hope, which lead to correct actions, especially that most important action of worship.
- 6) We see this in Revelation 5 where we receive the special revelation of seeing the big picture: God sovereignly enthroned in heaven.
 - a) God the Father has a sealed scroll that contains His plan for all of history. Rev 5:1-4
 - b) Only the Son, the Lion/Lamb can open and execute the Father's plan. Rev 5:5ff
- 7) When the Lamb takes the scroll worship happens. Rev 5:8ff
 - a) The four greatest angels (cherubim), and the 24 elders (represent the saints) fall down before the Lamb.
 - b) Revelation 5:8a – *“When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb . . .”*

Worship

- 1) Worship, at it's simplest, is to bow down before someone and give them homage and reverence.
 - a) In our hyper-individualistic secular world these words have almost disappeared.
 - i) In much of modern Christianity “worship” means “time to be entertained, express oneself, get self help advice, and seek an emotional high.”
 - ii) This is seen by the fact that for many modern Evangelicals “worship” is now a noun.
 - Example: *“Today’s worship was so spirit filled!”*
[By which they mean “entertaining.”]
 - Example: *“We have an 1/2 hour of worship followed by the sermon.”*
[“Worship” being the rock concert part of the “service.”]
[Also note, the sermon is not part of worship?!]
 - Example: *“Our church has three worship leaders and a pastor.”*
[“Worship leader” being the band.]
[Again, implying preaching and the sacraments are not worship?!]
 - b) Worship, in the Bible, is a verb! Something we do, not something we experience.
 - c) Bending the knee to give homage and reverence is an action!
 - i) *“Homage”* means to give submission, loyalty and service to one’s lord / superior.
 - ii) *“Reverence”* is veneration, to bring together fear, respect and esteem to someone.
- 2) New Covenant worship focuses on the “bowing down” of our inner being, which the Bible calls “the heart.” Ps 51:17; Mark 7:1ff
Rom 12:1; 1Pet 2:5
 - a) That our mind, will, soul, spirit, emotions, etc. bow before God and give Him the homage and reverence due Him and His name.
 - b) The body, of course is involved: You have to drive to church, you have to listen and think, you have to eat & drink, you have to give, you have to speak and you have to sing.
- 3) We see the central parts of worship in Revelation 5:
 - a) The most part of NT worship is the administration of the Word.
 - i) Notice what causes this scene of worship in Revelation 5?
 - When the scroll/book is brought forward.
 - And it will be opened and its contents brought forth.

ii) Who opens it?

- The “Lamb standing as if slain.” – Rev 5:6
- This is the true Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God.

b) The most important part of worship is the administration of the Word, through reading and preaching the Bible and by the giving of the sacraments.

4) The centrality of the Word is adorned with:

- a) Giving, maybe implied by the golden bowls in Revelation 5:8.
- b) Prayer, as we saw last week by the incense in the bowl which clearly is defined as “*the prayers of the saints.*” – Rev 5:8b
- c) Singing, a musical form of prayer, is seen in today’s sermon texts.

Congregational Singing

1) The Old Testament had choirs with musical instruments who sang unto God in the Temple. (Not for the entertainment of the congregation.)

1Chr 15:16

Neh 12:31; Hab 3:19

a) This is the imagery in Revelation, in the heavenly Temple.

Rev 9:13; 14:2-3; 15:2-3; 18:22

b) The cherubim and the 24 elders have harps and sing.

Rev 5:8-9

c) Whether one can follow the OT pattern of “high church” music as found in the Anglican tradition, is debatable.

d) Our Congregational Puritan forefathers clearly rejected this as being contrary to Scripture.¹

2) At the very least the best form of music in the church is congregational singing.

a) This is objectively seen by all the references to music in the New Testament.

b) There will be instruments used in announcing the end of the age.

Matt 24:31; 1Cor 15:52;

1Thes 4:16; Heb 2:17

c) Revelation speaks about heavenly worship in the heavenly Temple by angels & the saints.

Rev 9:13; 14:2-3;

15:2-3; 18:22

d) All the other references to music in NT are about congregational singing.²

e) With congregational singing being directly commanded.

Col 3:16; Heb 2:12

Ephesians 5:19-20 – “*speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;*”

3) This mirrors what is going on in heaven where the cherubim and the heavenly saints are singing “a new song.” – Rev 5:9a

A New Song

1) A “new song” is a biblical theme found especially in the Psalms.

Ps 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1

Is 42:10; Rev 5:9; 14:3

¹ The Puritan Reformed Tradition (which includes the Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Baptists) believed in what is called the “**regulative principal of worship**” – That which is not commanded is forbidden.

As opposed by more high church types (Anglicans, Lutherans, etc.) who believed in the “**normative principal or worship**” – That which is not forbidden is allowable.

² Matt 26:30; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom 15:9; 1Cor 14:15; Eph 5:19-20; Col 3:16-17; Heb 2:12; James 5:13; (The references in Matt 11:17, Luke 7:32 and 1Cor 14:7-8 are not about worship.)

- 2) The focus on the song being “new” is *not* that it refers to some previously unheard/unique melody, words or instruments, such as going from an old organ to a new electric guitar.
 - a) The “new” refers to some new glorious change because the Lord has acted.
 - b) For example, imaging the British singing a “new” song because they won the Battle of Britain in 1940 over Nazi Germany.
 - i) They might be singing the same old patriotic song but the “new” part is because God has granted them a stunning victory over their evil enemy.
 - ii) Even though Britain had know victories before the Battle of Britain.
 - c) In Scripture the “new” doesn’t focus on the music but focuses on God.
- 3) The context of a “new song” in the Bible is normally about:
 - a) God acting in a great way.
 - b) Bringing deliverance of His people from the wicked and fallen nature of the world.
 - c) It usually uses martial imagery.
- 4) Psalm 98, is a great example of this:
 - 1 *O sing to the Lord a **new song**, for He has done wonderful things, His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.*
 - 2 *The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.*
 - 3 *He has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*
 - 4 *Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises . . .*
 - 9 *Before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.*
- 5) So here in Revelation 5:9 (and in Rev 14:3) a new song is sung because:
 - a) The Father’s plan of redemption and justice is being executed by the Son.
 - b) It is not “novel” because this was the plan from the beginning. Eph 1:3-4; Heb 1:1-2
 - c) It is new because God is now acting through and by His Son.

The Object of Worship

- 1) The focus of our worship is the Triune God.
 - a) Notice how Trinitarian this book is!
 - b) Only God is to be worshiped and here Jesus, the Lamb, is worshiped.
 - c) Yet the Lion-Lamb is clearly different from God the Father enthroned.
 - d) Proving the deity of Christ!
- 2) This new song is about Him:
 - a) Only the Son is worthy to bring forth God’s plan by breaking the seals.
 - i) That is why He is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last.
 - ii) Christ is the purpose of history.
 - iii) He is the means by which God is saving His people and redeeming creation.

- b) How is this accomplished?
 - i) Because He was slain – He died for the sins of the whole created order.
 - ii) It is by Him, the Father has “*purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*” – Rev 5:9b
- 3) What is the purpose of our election? Matt 24:22-24; Rom 8:33ff
That we will “*be a kingdom and priests to our God.*” – Rev 5:10a
- 4) Christ’s Kingdom is where He reigns. Luke 17:20-37; John 18:36
 - a) Now, in the hearts of His people as found in the church, and perfectly in heaven.
 - b) Thus His Kingdom is already and not yet.
 - c) The “not yet” part refers to our Lord’s return at the end of the age.
 - i) Clearly this is about eschatology.
 - ii) And Revelation does talk about this.
 - d) However, I would contend that Revelation is at least equal, if not more so, about the “already” part of His Kingdom.
 - e) As we read in Revelation 4-7.
 - i) Christ is reigning in heaven right now!
 - ii) He sends forth His Spirit to dwell in His people’s hearts, guiding them.
 - iii) He intercedes for the saints to His Father.
 - iv) And He is unfolding history for God’s glory and our good.
 - v) As He puts His enemies under His feet.
 - f) Again, just think how much Christ’s Kingdom has advanced since the writing of Revelation.
 - g) And we are not just citizens of His Kingdom but are also priests.
- 5) The main purpose of a priest is to offer sacrifices.
 - a) In the New Covenant all Christians are priests Ex 19:6; Is 61:6; 66:21;
as prophesied in the Old Covenant. 1Pet 2:5,9; Rev 1:6; 5:10; 20:6
 - b) That all Christians are priests has huge implications:
 - i) There is no special group within the church that are closer to God because of their office with special sacerdotal powers. (i.e. Roman Catholic priests)
 - ii) This is where we get the main argument for congregational government.
 - iii) In the secular realm this is where the idea that America should be a democratic capitalist nation with everyone equal before the law comes from. (It is not from the Enlightenment but from the Reformation.)
 - iv) This is where the idea of universal education and literacy comes from. (Priests need to read the word of God.)
- 6) Our main purpose as priests, however, is to offer worship unto God.
- 7) This concludes with a promise, that we (the saints) “*will reign upon the earth.*” – Rev 5:10b