

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
November 3, 2024

Communion Sunday

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." – 2Corinthians 13:14*



trinityreformedct.org

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – John 15:26-27; 16:7-15

Leader: When the Helper (the Holy Spirit) comes, whom I (the Son) will send to you (the Apostles/church) from the Father,

People: That is the Spirit of truth

Leader: Who proceeds from the Father, He (the Spirit) will testify about Me (the Son), and you (the Apostles/church) will testify also,

People: Because you have been with Me from the beginning . . .

Leader: But I tell you the truth,

People: It is to your advantage that I go away;

Leader: For if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes,

People: Will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

Leader: Concerning sin,

People: Because they do not believe in Me;

Leader: And concerning righteousness,

People: Because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

Leader: And concerning judgment,

People: Because the ruler of this world has been judged.

Leader: I have many more things to say to you,

People: But you cannot bear them now.

Leader: But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak;

People: And He will disclose to you what is to come.

Leader: He (the Spirit) will glorify Me (the Son), for He (the Spirit) will take of Mine (the Son) and will disclose it to you (the Apostles/church). All things that the Father has are Mine (the Son); therefore I (the Son) said that He (the Spirit) takes of Mine (the Son)

People: And will disclose it to you.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Galatians 4:4-6

*Hymn #101 (red hymnal) – “Come, Thou Almighty King”

Scripture Reading – Matthew 3:12-17 (*Baptism*); 17:1-7 (*Transfiguration*); 28:16-20 (*Commission*)

Ancient Creedal Reading – Athanasian Creed, beginning section.

Leader: Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the catholic (i.e. universal) faith. Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken

People: will doubtless perish eternally.

Leader: Now this is the catholic faith:

People: That we worship one God in Trinity

Leader: And the Trinity in unity, neither blending their persons

People: Nor dividing their essence.

Leader: For the person of the Father is a distinct person,

People: The person of the Son is another,

Leader: And that of the Holy Spirit still another. But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one,

People: Their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.

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 #24A** (red hymnal) – “The Earth the Riches”

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 – Savoy Declaration, II.3.

Leader: In the unity of the Godhead

1John 5:7

People: There be three persons,

Matt 3:16-17

Leader: Of one substance, power, and eternity:

Matt 28:19

People: God the Father,

2Cor 13:14

Leader: God the Son,

People: and God the Holy Ghost:

Leader: The Father is of none,

People: Neither begotten, not proceeding;

Leader: The Son is eternally begotten

John 1:14,18

People: Of the Father;

Leader: The Holy Ghost eternally proceeding

John 15:26

People: From the Father and the Son.

Gal 4:6

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Revelation 5:11-14

***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 – “Trinity”

(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

Ministry of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation & Warning

Prayer

Scripture – Matthew 26:26-28

Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #100 (red hymnal)** – “Holy, Holy, Holy”

***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: Baucham’s <u>Expository Apologetics</u> Adult Study: Westminster Larger Catechism Worship (Lord’s Supper on the 1 st Sunday of the month) Coffee Hour Fellowship
<i>Tuesday</i>	10:30 AM – Noon	Tuesday Study (Evangelism in Acts) at Pastor Doug’s house
<i>Wednesday</i>	6:30 – 8:00 PM	Wednesday 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@arthurgrussell.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 5:11-14

“Trinity”

A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7

November 3, 2024

Introduction

- 1) What is the most important core doctrine of the Christian faith?
- 2) It is debatable: Many key doctrines come to mind: The lordship, deity and humanity of Christ, the Gospel, the authority of the Bible, the Trinity, etc.
- 3) I would argue it is the Trinity.
 - a) To get God fundamentally wrong will cause everything else to be wrong.
 - i) Throughout history, groups that claim Christ, yet reject the Trinity, quickly get crazy.
 - ii) Think of Islam, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Oneness Pentecostals, Unitarians, Universalists, Theological Liberals, etc.
 - b) If you get the Trinity wrong you will deny who and what Christ is, get the Gospel wrong, while rejecting what the Bible teaches.
 - c) Along with the Hypostatic Union (that Christ is fully God and fully man), the doctrine of the Trinity was the first doctrine the early church had to figure out.
 - i) It is why the great early creeds were created.
 - ii) Such as the Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, as well as the Definition of Chalcedon.
 - d) It became the first check to define whether one was a Christian or a heretic.
- 4) We have been going through the Book of Revelation, the great revelation that the Apostle John received about the big picture and God’s sovereign plan. Rev 1:1,4
 - a) We have been working through Revelation 5 where Jesus, the Son of God, the Lamb of God, has taken God the Father’s plan for creation (written in a sealed scroll/book).
 - b) This leads to worship, which continues in our sermon text (Rev 5:11-14).

- c) I have been arguing Revelation is one of the greatest books in the Bible to show the critical doctrine of the Trinity.
- d) Today, I would like to stop and take a look at the big picture of Revelation to see this point.

The Trinity – An Overview

- 1) The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible.
 - a) "Trinity means "tri-unity".
 - b) That God is Three in Unity.
- 2) The concept of the Trinity is clearly taught in Scripture, because the Bible teaches three fundamental things about God:
 - a) #1 – **There is only one God.** Deut 6:4; 32:39; Is 43:11; 44:6-8; 45:5-6,21; John 5:44; 1Tim 1:17; 6:15; Jude 2
 - b) #2 – **The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all fully God.** Matt 6:9; 28:19; John 1:1-2,14; 5:18-25; 10:30; 16:7-15; 20:28; Acts 5:3-4; 2Cor 13:14; Gal 4:6; Col 1:3; 3:17; 1Pet 1:2
 - c) #3 – **The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all different.** Matt 28:19; Luke 1:15; 3:21-22; John 16:7-13; Rev 5:1-14
 - d) Yet, there is only one God.
- 3) The doctrine of the Trinity, simply stated, is: **There is only one God who exists in three co-equal, and co-eternal Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
- 4) The great Congregational Confession, Savoy Declaration, 2.3, famously puts it as:

In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost: (1John 5:7; Matt 3:16-17; 28:19; 2Cor 13:14) the Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; (John 1:14,18) the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son. (John 15:26; Gal 4:6)
- 5) To put it simplistically, there is one **"What"** in God with three **"Who's"**.
- 6) That there is only one "What" in God is the easier concept.
 - a) As we see throughout Scripture.
 - i) Deuteronomy 6:4 – *"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the Lord is one!"*
 - ii) Isaiah 45:5a – *"I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God . . ."*
 - iii) And from the New Testament: 1Corinthians 8:4b – *" . . . there is no God but one."*
 - b) Whatever God is made out of, and when we talk about the being of God, there is only One.
 - i) There is only one God – not three gods, there is only one Lord – not three lords, there is only one Almighty – not three almighties, there is only one I Am – not three I am's.
 - ii) Yet Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all God, Lord, Almighty and the I Am!
 - c) That math does not work: It is: 1 + 1 + 1 = 1.
 - ii) We shouldn't be surprised there is a mystery to the very nature of God. Col 2:2
 - iii) We can only go with what the Bible teaches.
 - d) Almost all physical analogies, or pictures to depict the Trinity, fail.
 - i) If you draw a circle and break it up into three equal parts you have failed.
 - You're making God to be only 1/3 Father, 1/3 Son and 1/3 Spirit, thus, none of the Persons of the Godhead is fully God.

- And you have brought division to the Godhead.
God, however, is One!

ii) I think the best analogy would be:

- H₂O is one (chemical compound).
- Ice is H₂O, water is H₂O, steam is H₂O.
- Ice, water and steam are different.
- (But now the difficult part:) In one perfect entity there is 100% ice, 100% water, and 100% steam, at the same time. (1 + 1 + 1 = 1)

e) Did not the Lord Jesus say: "*I and the Father are one.*" – John 10:30
They are one but different.

7) There is three "Who's" with God, which is probably the harder concept.

a) The difference is less about being and more about how They act with regards to each other.

b) The best and easiest example of this is the incarnation.

i) Only the Son takes on human flesh, dies on a cross, and ascends into heaven.

ii) The Father and the Spirit do not do this.

c) Our confession uses more precise and technical language:

i) The Father is not begotten or proceeding.

- That is why He is shown throughout the Bible, especially in Revelation, as enthroned in heaven.
- Think of a King on His throne reigning and issuing decrees.

ii) The Son is eternally begotten of the Father.

- Yes, the Son was born of the virgin Mary some 2,000 years ago.
- But since the Son is also God, He has always existed.
(If someone is created than that person is not God but a mere creation.)
- The Father eternally begets the Son in the sense that the Son is always, from all eternity, coming forth from the Father.
- Think back to Genesis where God creates everything by speaking - That Word is the Second Person of the Trinity, the Son of God.
- The Word of God always comes from the Father, and unlike our words which soon disappear into the ether, God's Word is eternal.
- Thus, God the Father is always the father of Jesus Christ, not just in title, but also, in action.
- John 1:14,18b – "*And the Word (the Second Person of the Trinity – Jesus Christ) became (this verb is in the aorist indicative – a statement of fact in the past, i.e. the incarnation 2,000 years ago) *flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth . . . the only begotten God who is (not "was", this verb is in the present active) in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.*"*

iii) The Holy Spirit is eternally proceeding from
the Father and the Son.

John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7

d) If you really must have a physical analogy, maybe you can think of this as like a light bulb that is always on.

- i) The filament is like the Father, enthroned in the light bulb.
- ii) The electricity that courses through the light bulb is eternally begotten by the filament.
- iii) The light that is going out into all the room (i.e. creation) is proceeding from the filament and the electricity .
- iv) Again, always be careful with any physical analogies about the Trinity.
- e) To put it in a more simply way, we see the differences in each Person by noting:
 - i) The Father decrees.
 - ii) The Son accomplishes.
 - iii) The Spirit applies.
- f) For example, in salvation: Eph 1:1-2:22
 - i) The Father decrees salvation for His people.
 - ii) The Son accomplishes this by becoming human and dying on a cross.
 - iii) The Spirit applies this salvation by going into spiritually dead sinners and making them alive so they will repent and trust in Christ.
- 8) The best book that illustrates these differences in the Bible, is the Book of Revelation.

The Trinity in Revelation 5:11-14

- 1) In today's sermon text, John looks around and hears not just the cherubim and the saints in heaven, but "many angels", making all those worshipping as "myriads of myriads" (at the very least "tens of thousands" or "countless") and they say with one voice, "*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, 'To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.' And the four living creatures kept saying, 'Amen.' And the elders fell down and worshiped.*" – Rev 5:12-14
- 2) Notice how the Father and the Son (the Lamb) are different.
 - a) In this scene the Father is on the throne. While the Son is "*between*" Rev 5:6
the throne and the cherubim and elders.
 - i) The Greek here is a bit wild. The word "*between*" is literally, "*in the middle of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the middle of the elders*" showing the mystery of the Trinity because mere human language cannot fully explain the nature of God.
 - ii) Yet, there is a clear difference: Rev 5:13 – "*Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb*".
 - b) Worship is happening because the Lamb has taken the scroll. Rev 5:1ff
 - i) The scroll starts with God the Father, which are His decrees for His creation.
 - ii) It is only accomplished because the Son can take it and open it, Rev 6:1ff
thus, executing God's plan.
 - c) Only the Lamb has been slain, not the Father.

3) Notice how the Father and the Son are the same.

a) Both are being worshiped.

i) Only God can be worshiped!

Deut 6:13; Matt 4:10;

ii) To quote Commandments #1 & #2 – *“You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God . . .”* – Exodus 20:3-5a

iii) Can you imagine any other biblical person being shown equal with God?!
(Abraham, Moses, David, Peter, Paul, etc.)

iv) When John goes to worship an angel at the end of Revelation he is harshly rebuked.

Rev 19:10; 22:8-9

b) Both have dominion, which in the heavenly sense only belongs to God.

Ps 145:13; Zech 9:10; Eph 1:20-21;
Col 1:16; 1Tim 6:16; Rev 1:6

4) You might ask, “what about the Holy Spirit?”

a) Good question.

b) Let’s take the big picture view of Revelation and hear about each Person.

Holy Spirit in Revelation

1) To site a few examples of the Holy Spirit in Revelation:

a) The Spirit is perfect before the Father’s throne as He is described as being “seven”, the biblical symbolic number of perfection.

Rev 1:4; 3:1; 4:5
Rev 4:5

b) John received his revelation because he was “in the Spirit.”

Rev 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10

c) The Spirit speaks to the churches.

Rev 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22

d) The Spirit of God (as the symbolic seven meaning perfection) is sent out to the earth.

Rev 5:6

e) The Spirit speaks from heaven.

Rev 14:13; 22:17

2) This is the Spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son applying the things of God inward in creation, especially in the hearts of believers.

John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7
Acts 2:33; Gal 4:6

3) To look at one example in detail:

a) Revelation 14:12-13 – *“Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, ‘Write, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’ Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.’”*

b) Here “God” can refer to all three Persons of the Trinity, though clearly one first thinks of the Father since the verse continues as *“and their faith in Jesus.”*

i) In the Bible, when “God” or “Lord” is used in a general ways it can refer to all the Persons of the Trinity, though if we have to default to thinking of one Person first, it should be the Father.

ii) Of course, we should have faith in all three Persons of the Trinity.

iii) The focus is on Jesus, however, because it is only trusting in His work on the cross which makes us right with God, as we read in the text: *“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord”*.

- c) Though Jesus is the only eternal Word of God, all three Persons do speak.
- i) As we hear, the Spirit agrees with the Gospel by saying “Yes”.
 - ii) Because it is the Spirit who goes into the believer giving them faith and producing in us good works, thus He, the Spirit affirms, “*so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.*”
 - iii) Note, the Spirit is described as a Person. Never call the Spirit an “it”. John 14:17
The Bible uses the pronoun “He” for the Spirit. John 16:13

The Father in Revelation

- 1) As we have already seen, the most common image of God the Father is that of being enthroned in heaven reigning in power. Rev 1:4; 3:21; 4:2-6,9-10; 5:1,6-7,11,13; 6:16; 7:9-11,15,17; 12:5; 14:3; 16:17; 19:4-5; 20:11-12; 22:1,3
- 2) In Revelation, God the Father, is described as the Father of the Son, though never of the Spirit. Rev 1:6; 2:27; 3:5,21; 14:1

Christ in Revelation

- 1) Revelation is above all else “*the revelation of Jesus Christ*”. – Rev 1:1a
- 2) It is fascinating to hear how He appears in different ways and different times in Revelation:
 - a) In the future, the Lord Jesus will return at the end of the age in power and in glory, “*coming with the clouds*”. Rev 1:7
 - b) Right now, He is among, with, and upholds His church, like standing in the middle of the lampstands holding seven stars. Rev 1:13-20
 - c) Right now, is in heaven, “*between the throne*” revealing and causing God’s plan by opening up the seals. Rev 5:5-8
 - d) Right now, He is going “*out conquering and to conquer*”, like a warrior-king with a bow on a white horse. Rev 6:1-2
 - e) In the past, He was like a child, born from the nation of Israel, destined “*to rule all the nations with a rod of iron*”, who Satan tried (is trying) to destroy. Rev 12:5-11
 - f) In the future, during the Great Tribulation right before the end, He will take His stand on Mount Zion and protect His people. Rev 14:1
 - g) In the future, at the end of the age, He will go forth, like on a white horse, to wage war and destroy the wicked. Rev 19:11-13
 - i) In the next age, the Father and the Son, are in the heavenly Temple, and they are the light for all creation. Rev 21:22-23
 - j) In the next age, the Father and the Son, will be enthroned, and there “no longer be any curse.” Rev 22:1-3
- 3) All this can be explained as Jesus accomplish God’s plan, which is the main theme of Revelation.