

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
November 17, 2024



trinityreformedct.org

*"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." – Revelation 3:21*

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Psalm 7:6-13

Leader: Arise, O LORD, in Your anger;

People: Lift up Yourself against the rage of my adversaries,

Leader: And arouse Yourself for me;

People: You have appointed judgment.

Leader: Let the assembly of the peoples encompass You, and over them return on high.

People: The LORD judges the peoples;

Leader: Vindicate me, O LORD, according to my righteousness

People: And my integrity that is in me.

Leader: O let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous;

People: For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds.

Leader: My shield is with God,

People: Who saves the upright in heart.

Leader: God is a righteous judge,

People: And a God who has indignation every day.

Leader: If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword;

People: He has bent His bow and made it ready.

Leader: He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons;

People: He makes His arrows fiery shafts.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Isaiah 43:25

***Hymn #309** (red hymnal) – “Rejoice, the Lord is King”

Scripture Reading – Revelation 19:1-21

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 #7B** (red hymnal) – “God is My Shield”

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 Shorter Catechism, #26.

Leader: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

People: In subduing us to Himself,

Acts 15:14-16

Leader: In ruling

Is 32:1-2

People: And defending us,

Leader: And in restraining and conquering all His

1Cor 15:25

People: And our enemies.

Ps 110

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Revelation 6:1-2

***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 – “The White Horseman”

(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

***Hymn #237** (red hymnal) – “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

There is no Fellowship Hour after church today because of the Annual Meeting

Upcoming Special Events

- The **Annual Meeting** will meet right after church today.
There will be no Coffee Hour today because of the Annual Meeting.
- TRC is doing **Operation Christmas Child** this year. If you are interested, please bring items for the shoe-boxes by November 24th, including: toys, toiletries, school supplies, clothing, etc., and if possible, a \$10 donation to cover shipping. OCC is a mission by the Christian nonprofit Samaritan's Purse which gives out shoe-boxes as gifts to unreached, underprivileged children throughout the world. Through these gifts, children partake in The Greatest Journey, a 12-week course about the gospel of Jesus. If you have any questions, please contact Mason Goodell at 860-806-6437 or goodellmas@gmail.com.

- Pastor Doug's **Tuesday & Wednesday Studies** will meet this week (Nov 19th & 20th), however, they will not meet the week of Thanksgiving (Nov 26th & 27th.)
- 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 to share 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
	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 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 6:1-2

“The White Horseman”

A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7

November 17, 2024

Introduction

- 1) At the turning point of the Gospels the Lord Jesus asks His disciples, “*But who do you say that I am?*” Matt 16:15; Mark 8:29;
Luke 9:20
 - a) Throughout the Gospels, especially the Synoptic Gospels (i.e. Matthew, Mark and Luke) one of the major themes is: Who is the Galilean carpenter?
 - b) As Pilate asked Christ Himself, “*So You are a king?*” – John 18:37
Which is followed up by the very related question: “*What is truth?*” – John 18:38
 - c) Arguably, the main purpose of the New Testament to show Who and What Jesus is.
 - d) The first verse of the New Testament: “*The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:*” - Matthew 1:1
- 2) The answer to the question “*who do you say that I am?*” is the turning point of the Gospels because it is the first time one of the Lord’s disciples figures out that He is the Christ, followed by the Lord Jesus first revealing of His purpose: To die on cross.
- 3) If you read through the New Testament (NT) you soon realize it is not the turning point of the Gospels, but of all history, of all of creation. Heb 1:1; Gal 4:4;
Eph 1:10; 1Pet 1:20
- 4) No other book does this better than Revelation, which shows us the Christ we deal with right now, in this present age.
 - a) Not the baby in the manger, or the nice humble carpenter, but someone far more kingly, powerful and grand.
 - b) Probably no other text better illustrates this than today’s sermon text.
- 5) Today’s text is the 1st Seal of the seven sealed scroll being broken.
 - a) The first of the famous Four Horseman of the Apocalypse.
 - i) A rider on a white horse.
 - ii) He has a bow, wears a crown, and rides forth “*conquering and to conquer.*”
 - b) Some think this is the anti-Christ.
 - c) Historically, the majority have correctly seen the Rider as Christ.¹

Christ the Lamb – Revelation 6:1

- 1) John the Apostle (the author of Revelation) was given a special vision of heaven.

¹ For example, Irenaeus (d.c. 202) [whose pastor was Polycarp (c.70-156), who’s pastor was John the Apostle, who’s pastor was Jesus Christ] writes, “*For to this end was the Lord born, the type of whose birth he set forth beforehand, of whom also John says in the Apocalypse: ‘He went forth conquering, that He should conquer.’”* – AH 4.21.3

Or, Victorinus of Pettau (d. 303/4) writes “When the first seal was opened, he says that ‘he saw a white horse and a rider who was crowned and who had a bow’ – for this is what happened at first. For, after our Lord ascended into heaven, he opened all things and sent forth the Holy Spirit. Through preachers, the words of the Holy Spirit penetrate into the human heart as though they were arrows and they conquer unbelief. The crown on the head is promised to the preachers by the Holy Spirit . . . And therefore, the white horse is the word preaching when the Holy Spirit was sent into the world. For the Lord has said, ‘This gospel will be preached in all the world as a witness to the nations, and then the end will come.’”

- 2) In Revelation 5-6 John sees God the Father, enthroned in heaven, has a scroll (or book) that is sealed with seven seals. (The number seven represents perfection.)
- a) The scroll is God's plan from Christ's 1st Advent to His 2nd Advent.
 - i) **1st Advent:** Christ's earthly ministry 2,000 years ago where the Lord Jesus took on human flesh (Christmas), died for our sins (Good Friday), rose again from the dead (Easter), ascended into heaven (Ascension) and sent His Spirit to be with us in a special way (Pentecost).
 - ii) **2nd Advent:** Christ's return in power and glory in the future at the end of this age.
 - b) The events unleashed by the first five seals are happening now.²
 - c) Only the Son, shown here as a Lamb, can reveal and execute the Father's plan. Rev 5:1-5
- 3) The Son of God is shown in various ways, with various images, throughout the Book of Revelation.³
- a) The most common image of Christ in Revelation is the Lamb of God.⁴
 - b) This might seem a bit surprising that a meek lowly Lamb would be the One to open the scroll. Wouldn't the Lion of Judah be a better image?
 - c) Why a Lamb?
 - i) Because it is through His redeeming death, as the Passover Lamb, that He conquers.
 - ii) As we read of the heavenly view of Christ in Revelation 5:6b – "*a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.*"
 - iii) This Heavenly Lamb is both meek and fearsome and powerful.⁵
 - iv) Thus, only the Lamb, Who is God, and Has conquered death through His death, can open the scroll.
- 4) John sees the Lamb open the first seal.

² My favorite commentary on Revelation is More Than Conquerors by William Hendriksen, who argues Revelation is divided into seven visions:

	<u>Vision 1</u>	<u>Vision 2</u>	<u>Vision 3</u>	<u>Vision 4</u>	<u>Vision 5</u>	<u>Vision 6</u>	<u>Vision 7</u>
<i>Present Church Age:</i>	1:1-3:22	4:1-6:11	8:1-12	12:1-13:18	15:1-16:12	17:1-18:24	20:1-6
<i>Tribulation - End of this Age:</i>	---	6:12-7:8	8:13-11:14	14:1-13	16:12-16	---	---
<i>Perfect Final Age to Come:</i>	---	7:9-17	11:15-19	14:14-20	16:17-21	19:1-21	20:7-22:21

³ Faithful Witness (Rev 1:5)	Firstborn of the Dead (Rev 1:5)
Ruler of the Kings of the Earth (Rev 1:5)	A to the Z - Alpha and the Omega (Rev 1:8; 21:6; 22:13)
Son of Man (Rev 1:13; 14:14)	White haired man with eyes of flame (Rev 1:13-16)
He who is among and holds the churches (Rev 1:13-16)	Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Rev 5:5)
Warrior on a White Horse (Rev 6:2; 19:11-16)	Crowned warrior with a sickle on a cloud (Rev 14:14)
King of Kings, Lord of Lords (Rev 17:14; 19:16)	Word of God (Rev 19:13)

⁴ Rev 5:6,8,12-13; 6:1,7,9,16; 7:9-10,14,17; 8:1; 12:11; 13:8,11; 14:1,4,10; 15:3; 17:14; 19:7,9; 21:9,14,22-23,27; 22:1,3.

⁵ Seven is symbolic of completeness and perfection. (Gen 2:2-3; Ex 20:8; Matt 15:32-39)
 Horns represent power and authority. (Deut 33:17; 1Kgs 22:11; Ps 75:4-5,10; 89:17,24; Jer 48:25; Dan 7:7-8,11,20-24; 8:3-12,20-22; Mic 4:13; (1Enoch 90:6-12,37)
 Eyes represent to see and act. (Ps 69:23; Matt 6:22-24)
 When horns and eyes are combined it is symbolic of fierce power. (Dan 7:8,20; 8:5,21; Zech 1:18)
 Remember what the prophet Zechariah, who prophesied during the time of Haggai, said about the rebuilding of the Second Temple. (Zech 3:8-10; 4:9-10)
 This goes with John's explanation of what the horns & eyes mean - "which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth." – Rev 6:6b

- 5) The cherubim (“*four living creatures*”, the highest rank of angels) speak with a voice of thunder.
- a) Throughout Revelation there is **thunder** when God acts dramatically from heaven. Rev 4:5; 6:1; 8:5; 10:3-4; 11:19; 14:2; 16:18; 19:6
 - b) One thinks of ancient Israel before Mount Sinai, where God appeared to the people with thunder to give the Law. Ex 19:16,19; Ex 20:18; Heb 12:18-21
 - c) Only with the 1st Horseman (White-Christ) is there thunder.
 - i) Not with the other three (Red-War, Black-Famine, Ashen-Death).
 - ii) Showing the 1st Horseman is different and unique.
- 6) The cherubim proclaim “**Come**” after the seal is opened and for all the four seals of the Horsemen. Rev 6:1,3,5,7; 19:17; 22:17,20
- a) The syntax here is very interesting.
 - b) It could be translated as “*come*” or “*go*”.
 - i) The horseman is being summoned (i.e. “*come*”).
 - ii) Or, the horseman is being sent out (i.e. “*go*”).
 - c) You can translate the “*come/go*” in two different ways:
 - i) Either as a command (in the imperative).
 - ii) Or as a statement of fact (in the indicative).
 - d) Pastor Doug thinks the subtleties of the language allow us to deal with some problems that one might think of about the text, such as:⁶
 - i) An angel can command Christ?
 - ii) War, famine and death follow the conquering Christ and are commanded by God?
 - e) Christ, the 1st Horseman, is announced and is going forth.
 - f) The other “evil” Horsemen happen because persecution always follows in the wake of the Gospel in this fallen age. 2Cor 4:4; Gal 1:4

Revelation 6:2

- 1) With the cherubim’s proclamation John looks, and behold, he sees a white horse and a rider.
- 2) The color of **white** is always associated with the good and the holiness of God in John’s writings. John 4:35; 20:12; Rev 1:14; 2:17; Rev 3:4-5,18; 4:4; 6:2,11; 7:9,13-14; Rev 14:14; 19:11,14; 20:11
 - a) In the 5th seal the saints in heaven receive white robes, linking them with the 1st Horseman and His mission. Rev 6:11
 - b) Revelation 14:14 shows Christ on a “white cloud” with a “golden crown on His head” and armed, which is similar to Revelation 6:2.
- 3) **Horses & bows** are signs of power in the ancient world. Ps 20:7; 33:17; Prov 21:31 - Ps 7:12-13; 46:9; Ps 64:7; 76:3; Jer 51:56; Hos 1:5,7; 2:18; Zech 9:13
 - a) Both are used as signs of God’s power and judgment. Is 41:2; Ezek 5:16-17; Hab 3:8-11; Zech 1:8; 6:3f; Rev 6:2; 19:11ff

⁶ Some ancient Greek manuscript of the NT read “come and see/look” making the focus on John. Where these changes an attempt to deal with these seeming difficulties?

- b) Psalm 7 shows God as armed with a bow: *“If a man does not repent, He (God) will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready. He has also prepared for Himself deadly weapons; He makes His arrows fiery shafts.”* – Psalm 7:12-13
- c) Psalm 45, a messianic psalm (Heb 1:8), shows the Christ as a conqueror riding forth to attack His enemies: *“Gird Your sword on Your thigh, O Mighty One, in Your splendor and Your majesty! And in Your majesty ride on victoriously, for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; Let Your right hand teach You awesome things. Your arrows are sharp; The peoples fall under You; Your arrows are in the heart of the King’s enemies.”* – Psalm 45:3-5

4) A **crown** is given to the White Horseman.

- a) Note, not the other three.
- b) Crowns are a sign of victory (the word here can also mean “wreath”) and also, royalty and kingship. 1Cor 9:25
- c) True, demons, because they are false, might appear to have crowns. Rev 9:7
 - i) However, there is no qualifier (like in Rev 9:7 where it says there “appeared to be crowns” on the demons) in Revelation 6:2.
 - ii) The White Horseman is given a crown.
- d) The earthly Christ, as the Passover Lamb, was given a crown of thorns. Matt 27:29; Mark 15:17;
John 19:2,5
- e) The heavenly Christ, the Christ we deal with today, has been given a new crown of glory and power.
- f) As we read in Revelation 14:14 – *“Then I looked, and behold, (note the similar language to Rev 6:2) a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.”*

5) Some might object: “How can Christ be both the Lamb and the White Horseman?”

- a) Answer: Why not?
- b) Has not Revelation been using symbolical language for Christ throughout it?
 - i) Cannot the Lord put His right hand on John and at the same time hold seven stars? Rev 1:16-17
 - ii) Cannot the Lamb be slaughtered, alive and all powerful at the same time? Rev 5:6
 - iii) Cannot the church be both a bride and a city? Rev 21:9-10
 - iv) Is not Jesus the Alpha and the Omega at the same time? Rev 1:8; 22:13
 - v) Let alone there is only one God in three Persons. Rev 1:6; 21:22
- c) Only Christ can open the scroll, so it shouldn’t be a surprise the scroll is first and foremost about Him! Rev 5:4-6:1; Luke 24:25-27
John 5:39-40; Acts 13:27
- d) Besides, in Revelation 19:11-16 we see a horseman on a white horse, armed and wearing a crown, and there is no debate this horseman is Christ.
 - i) This Horseman we are told what His names are: *“Faithful and True”* (Rev 19:11), *“The Word of God”* (Rev 19:13) and *“King of Kings and Lord of Lords”* (Rev 19:16)
 - ii) This is Jesus Christ, both in Revelation 19 and in Revelation 6.

6) What is the purpose of the 1st Horseman?

- a) Answer: To go *“out conquering and to conquer.”*

- b) With but two exceptions (Rev 11:7; 13:7) “conquering” always refers to Christ and His church in Revelation, which is a major theme of Revelation, if not the theme. Rev 3:21; 5:5; 17:14
- c) Remember, Revelation was first written to a small, worldly, weak, early church who is being persecuted by the (seemingly) all-powerful Roman Empire.
- i) It’s author, the Apostle John, is in exile because of the faith on a tiny little island. Rev 1:9
- ii) He, and through him the church, receives a special revelation of what reality is truly like from a heavenly perspective.
- iii) And that the saints are more than conquerors in Christ, because Christ is King and is going forth to conquer.
- 7) The universal proclamation of the Gospel will bring persecution in this fallen age. Matt 10:34-39; 24:14ff; Mark 13:10-13; John 15:18-27; 17:14; 1Pet 2:19ff; 1John 13:13
- 8) Yet please note, with the white horseman, by Himself, there are no calamities listed, unlike the other three.
- 9) But what has Christ conquered and/or what is He conquering right now?

More Than Conquerors

- 1) Romans 8:35-37 (KJV) – *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, ‘For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ (Ps 44:22) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”*
- 2) The blessings we have right now because of Christ are too many to completely list.
- 3) Remembering Psalm 103:2, however, (“*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits;*”) let’s try to list a few.
- a) Death has been conquered.
- i) Yes, Christians die in this age, until Christ returns.
- ii) However, the “second death”, i.e. going to hell, has been defeated. Rev 2:11; 20:6,14
Rev 21:8
- iii) Christ is reigning right now, destroying His enemies, including going after the last enemy, death. Eph 1:22
1Cor 15:25-27; 2Tim 1:10
- iv) He is right now leading “*justice to victory.*” – Matt 12:20; Is 42:3
- v) The saints in heaven right now have a crown, which all saints on this earth will receive. 2Tim 4:8; James 1:12; 1Pet 5:4;
Rev 2:10; 3:11; 4:4,10
- vi) Death, sin and condemnation of the Law has been removed, nailed to His cross. 1Cor 15:54-57;
Col 2:14; 2Tim 1:12
- b) Satan has been bound so that the Gospel will now go to all nations, not just one nation (Israel) as in the old covenant. Rev 20:1-3
Heb 2:14-15
- i) Faith in Christ *is* conquering the world. 1John 5:4
- ii) It has brought together Jews and Gentiles. Eph 2:15-16
- iii) The power of the devil has been broken in our lives. Heb 2:14-15
- c) Christ intercedes for the saints with His heavenly Father. Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25

- d) Christ has sent forth His Spirit who dwells in His people in a special way, giving them new life. Col 1:21-22
Rom 6:4
- i) Giving saving/justifying faith to the sinner.
 - ii) And abiding and growing faith to the believer which produces hope and love. And love covers a multitude of sin.
 - iii) Because His grace reigns in us. Rom 5:21
- e) We have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. 2Cor 1:21-22; Eph 1:13-14
- f) We are not lacking anything right now. We have all the gifts necessary. Rom 5:17
We have Christ and His Gospel, what else do you need? 1Cor 1:6-7
- i) Ephesians 1:3 - "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*"
 - ii) 2Corinthians 9:8 - "*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;*"
 - iii) Since we are in the "last days" and have the final revelation of Jesus Christ, we need no more revelation. We have all that we need. Heb 1:1-2
- 4) He has brought us together in His church as brothers and sisters.