

# Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for  
January 19, 2025

*"Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him;  
but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him,  
either in this age or in the age to come."* – Matthew 12:32



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

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“\*” = Please stand if you are able.

## Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

### Call to Worship – 1Corinthians 1:20; 2:6-8

**Leader:** *Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age?*

**People:** **Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? . . .**

**Leader:** *Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however,  
not of this age*

**People:** **Nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;**

**Leader:** *But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which  
God predestined*

**People:** **Before the ages to our glory;**

**Leader:** *The wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood;  
for if they had understood it*

**People:** **They would not have crucified the Lord of glory;**

## Prayer of Invocation and Confession

### Gospel Absolution Texts – Hebrews 9:26

*"Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now  
once at the consummation of the ages (literally "the full completion of the ages".) He has been  
manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."*

\***Hymn #30** (red hymnal) – "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

**Scripture Reading** – Matthew 24:1-31

**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#125** – "All, Like Mount Zion, Unmoved Shall Endure"

## 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, 1.1

<i>Leader:</i>	<i>Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God,</i>	Ps 19:1-3 Rom 1:19-20,32
<b>People:</b>	<b>As to leave men inexcusable;</b>	Rom 2:1,14-15
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>Yet they are not sufficient to give that knowledge of God, and of His will,</i>	1Cor 1:21
<b>People:</b>	<b>Which is necessary unto salvation.</b>	1Cor 2:13-14
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>Therefore it pleased the Lord, at sundry times, and in divers manner, to reveal Himself,</i>	Heb 1:1
<b>People:</b>	<b>And to declare that His will unto His Church;</b>	
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>And afterwards, for the better preserving and propagating of the truth, and for the more sure establishment and comfort of the Church against the corruption of the flesh, and the malice of Satan and of the world,</i>	Prov 22:19-21 Luke 1:3-4 Rom 15:4 Matt 4:4,7,10
<b>People:</b>	<b>To commit the same wholly unto writing:</b>	Is 8:19-20
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>Which maketh the Holy Scripture</i>	2Tim 3:15
<b>People:</b>	<b>To be most necessary;</b>	2Pet 1:19
<i>Leader:</i>	<i>Those former ways of God's revealing His will unto His people</i>	
<b>People:</b>	<b>Being now ceased.</b>	Heb 1:1-2

## Ministry of the Word

### Prayer of Illumination

**\*Sermon Text** – Jude 24-25

**\*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** – “Ages”

(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

**\*Hymn #499** (red hymnal) – “Rock of Ages”

**\*Benediction** – Jude 24-25

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

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## Announcements

- Tuesday & Wednesday studies return this week.

## Upcoming Events

- There will be a **TRC Game Night** on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Tanja's parents' house at 409 Oak Avenue, Torrington (with a snow date of Jan 31<sup>st</sup>).
- Sledding in February?
- There will be a **Ladies Bingo & Pot-Luck Supper Night** on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM (with a snow date of Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>) at the Gabelmanns' pool-house. All adult ladies are welcome!
- Easter is on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Regular Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i>	9:00 – c.10:00 AM	<b>Sunday School</b> 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	<b>Worship</b> (Lord's Supper on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month) <b>Coffee Hour Fellowship</b>
<i>Tuesday</i>	10:30 AM – Noon	<b>Tuesday Study</b> (Evangelism in Acts) at Pastor Doug's house
<i>Wednesday</i>	6:30 – 8:00 PM	<b>Wednesday Study</b> (on Exodus) at Pastor Doug's house
<i>Friday</i>	6:30 - ??? PM	<b>Young Adult Discussion Group</b> at Pastor Doug's house (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fridays)
<i>Saturday</i>	morning	<b>Prayer Group</b> at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

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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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## 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 for our prayer chain, 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@arthurgrossell.com
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	rgabelmann0415@gmail.com
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	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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# Sermon Notes

Jude 24-25

"Ages"

A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7

January 19, 2025

## Introduction

- 1) Since this is the beginning of the New Year, let me ask: What **age** are we in?
  - a) The year 2025? The 21<sup>st</sup> Century?
  - b) Is it "A.D." meaning "*anno Domini* – "in the year of the Lord" or that silly "C.E." meaning the "Common/Current Era".
  - c) Is this the modern age? The post-modern age? The Information Age (c.1970's-present)? As opposed to the Cold War Age of 1947-1991.
  - d) Are we transitioning from "Generation Alpha" (those born from 2013-2025) to "Generation Beta" (those born in 2025-2039). As opposed to the G.I. Generation (1901-27), the Silent Generation (1928-1945), Boomers (1946-1964), Gen Xers (1965-1980), Millennials (1981-1996), Generation Z (1997-2012), etc.
- 2) To classify time periods is a very modern way of thinking.
  - a) Because "modern" is usually viewed as "good" because we are supposedly progressing while "old" is "bad." (Thus the phrase, "okay Boomer" to dismiss old people.)
  - b) Of course, what is "modern" and "old" is highly subjective.
    - i) I think the "old" times were anything before 1970.
    - ii) My daughter thinks it is anything before 2015.
- 3) The Bible has a very different view of time.
- 4) We have been going through Revelation 4-7.
  - a) In particular, the 7 sealed scroll which is God's plan which can only be revealed and executed by the resurrected Christ.
  - b) I have argued seals 1-5 are about this "*present age*".
    - i) Seal #1 – Christ, and His Gospel, going out conquering and to conquer, because He is the 1<sup>st</sup> Horseman of the Apocalypse, the one on the white horse. Rev 6:1-2
    - ii) Seals #2-4 – Because of Christ, and His Gospel, the church will endure persecution by the world as represented by the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Rev 6:3-8
    - iii) Seal #5 – We see the saints in heaven, especially those martyred, who cry out to God, are clothed in white and are at rest. Rev 6:9-11
- 5) We are now on the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal, which I believe is about the "end of the age."
  - a) I was excited to take a deep-dive into this interesting topic so I started to ponder it during my Christmas vacation – thinking I knew what I would preach on.
  - b) At first, I was going to preach a general sermon on the "Great Tribulation" and maybe the so-called "rapture" or maybe about the "antichrist" – those popular things modern Christians think about when hearing about the "end times." Matt 24:21  
1Thes 4:17  
1John 2:18,22  
2John 7

- i) I soon realized, however, I was more and more taking my attention away from the focus of Revelation 7:1ff.
  - ii) Revelation is about God’s perspective, and plan, for reality.
  - iii) This caused me to start to study the broad biblical concept of “ages”, which became quite extensive and revelatory.
  - c) Focusing on the “end times” always interest us, however, we rarely stop and ask “what does the Bible teach about the time/age we are in”?
- 6) Today, to prepare us for the 6<sup>th</sup> seal in Revelation 6, I would like to do a broad topical sermon on the biblical concept of an “age”.

## “Age Defined”

- 1) By “age” I don’t mean “a unit of time” – “how old something is.”  
(Which is “*etos*” in NT Greek.) Luke 2:36,37,41-42
- 2) But an “eon” (also spelled “aeon”) in English.
  - a) An “eon” is “*an immeasurable or infinite space of time; eternity; a long space of time; an age.*” – Websters, 1913.
  - b) “Eon” is literally from the NT Greek word “*aiōn*”.
  - c) In the NT it can mean, depending on the context:
 

An “era – a unit of time as a particular stage of history.”	Matt 12:32
The “universe” / “world”.	Heb 1:2
The “world system”	Luke 16:8; 1Cor 3:18; 2Cor 4:4; 1Tim 6:17; 2Tim 4:10
“Long ago”	Luke 1:70; Jude 25
“Forever, eternal, without end”	Rev 22:5
- 3) We see this in today’s sermon text.
  - a) Jude 24-25 is the closing doxology of this very short NT letter/epistle.
  - b) Verse 24 reads - “*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,*”
    - i) What a great doxology!
    - ii) A saying of glory (what literally “doxology” means) of the power of God to His saints.
    - iii) With the promise of mercy and power, both in this life, and the one to come.
      - We are in His presence now because we have the Holy Spirit and know the perfect peace of His Gospel – right now!
      - And of course that is perfectly known in heaven and the next age. As we have been reading in Revelation 4-7.
  - c) Jude concludes in verse 25 with: “*to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time (aiōn) and now and forever (aiōn, literally “to all the ages”). Amen.*”
    - i) Let’s ponder this doxology with the focus of thinking about ages.
    - ii) First note the focus on God.
      - This is, of course, not surprising.
      - However, it is so easy for us to forget this in this fallen world.

- When we think about time, and ages, we have to always remember Who created time and is Lord of all the ages.
  - Revelation is a great book to help us think correctly.
- iii) Next, notice the Triune/Trinity language in this text.
- God the Father receives glory, majesty, and is working out His dominion and authority through His Son.
  - Not only now, but also “before all time”, and “forever.”
- d) To understand time, and the ages, one should not first look to Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent (Christ’s future return at the end of the age) but to His 1<sup>st</sup> Advent (some 2,000 years ago starting with the Christmas).
- i) This is, I believe, the clear focus of the New Testament, however, it is easy to miss because we get so excited about the “end times.”
- ii) The book that helps up to see the big picture from God’s heavenly perspective is Revelation.
- 4) So, let us ponder the biblical concept of “ages.”

### **“Before All Time”**

- 1) As we have read in the end of Jude, there is a time *“before all time”*.
- 2) There was a “time” before time was created, when there was only the Triune God.
- 3) Remember there are two fundamental categories of reality:
- a) The Creator – the Triune God, who has always existed.
  - b) The creation – everything else which has been made by and for God.
- 4) One of the greatest lies/deceptions of the religion of secularism is the belief that the creation is the critical part and the Creator is, at best, an optional extra.
- a) In reality it is the other way around: The we, and all the creation, are the optional part. 1Cor 1:20  
Ps 90:1ff; Is 40:7-8
  - b) God does not need the creation. He has all life unto Himself. John 5:26  
Ex 3:13-14  
Hence God’s name: “I Am.”
- 5) God, in His mercy, for His glory, created time which is divided up into periods of time the Bible calls “the ages” John 9:32  
Heb 1:2; 11:3
- a) Thus, God is King “of the ages”. 1Tim 1:17
    - i) That is why we sing that God is the “Rock of Ages.”
    - ii) Isaiah 26:4 - *“Trust in the LORD forever, for in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.”*
  - b) And all of creation, including time, was made for Christ. Heb 1:2; 11:3
    - i) Everything is according to God’s plan, which has been *“predestined before the ages”*. – 1Cor 2:7
    - ii) And this is for His saints: *“But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.”* - Daniel 7:18
- 6) Thus “ages” and “time” is less about chronology and more about Christ.

## **This Age – The “Ancient Time”**

- 1) Though we are currently in this “age”, the Bible teaches there are “ages” during this time.
- 2) Acts 3:20-21 reads *“and that He (God the Father) may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you (the saints), whom heaven must receive (Christ’s ascension 2,000 years ago) until the period of restoration (literally “times of restoration”) of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time (aiōn).”*
- 3) This “ancient time” is also called *“long ages (chronos) past”* (Rom 16:25), *“long ages (chronos) ago”* (Titus 1:2), or simply *“long ago (aiōn)”* (Acts 15:18).
- 4) This refers to the time before Christ’s 1<sup>st</sup> Advent.
  - a) During the times of the Old Testament prophets. Acts 3:21; Luke 1:70
  - b) When mysteries of Christ were not fully clear. Rom 16:25
  - c) Yet, promises of eternal life were given. Titus 1:2
  - d) Before the time when people from all the nations will be brought in. Acts 15:18
- 5) The change from the “ancient times” to this “present age” is Christ’s first advent. Mark 10:31; Gal 1:4; Titus 2:12
  - a) Hebrews 9:26 (NASB) – *“Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages (aiōn) He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”*
  - b) The phrase, from the NASB, *“consummation of the ages”* is also translated as *“culmination of the ages”* (NIV), *“end of the age”* (RSV), *“end of the ages”* (NKJV) and even *“end of the world”* (KJV)
  - c) It is literally *“full completion of the ages”*.

## **This Age – Introduction**

- 1) One of the biblical concepts for the time we live in is “this age” and the “present age.” Mark 10:30; Gal 1:4; Titus 2:12
- 2) This is the age before the “age to come.” Matt 12:32; Mark 10:30; Luke 18:30; Eph 1:21; 2:7; Heb 6:5
- 3) This age is also called “evil.” Luke 16:8; Rom 12:2; Gal 1:4-5; Eph 2:2
  - a) Clearly there is suffering in this age, including the persecution of the church. As we have heard in Revelation 6 with the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> horsemen. Rev 6:3-8
  - b) Satan is called the god of this age. 2Cor 4:4
  - c) This age is worldly and corrupt, focusing on the ways of fallen man and not the Kingdom of God. 1Cor 1:20; 2:6-8; 3:18
  - d) Therefore, this age is passing away. 1Cor 2:6; 1Tim 6:17
  - e) 1Cor 2:6-8 – *“Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age (aiōn) nor of the rulers of this age (aiōn), who are passing away; but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages (aiōn) to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age (aiōn) has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;”*
- 4) Thus loving, and worrying, about this passing evil age is dangerous. Matt 13:22; Mark 4:19; 2Tim 4:10

- 5) So, should we go hide in a cave and wait for the end?
- a) No, of course not.
  - b) We are commanded to live our lives for God, resting in Him. Titus 2:11-14
  - c) Knowing that we are but pilgrims in this life. Heb 11:13; 1Pet 1:1; 2:11
  - d) For our citizenship is not with this earthly kingdom Eph 2:19; Phil 3:21;  
but the heavenly one. Heb 12:22
- 6) Besides this age being “this present evil age”, which is passing away, we are also in “the end of the age.”

### **This Age – The End of the Age**

- 1) With Christ’s 1<sup>st</sup> Advent as the “*full completion of the ages*” it means we are living Heb 9:26  
in the “end times”, the “end of age”, right now.
- a) By the “end times” the Bible doesn’t necessarily mean the end of the world is only days away from 2025 AD.
  - b) Though it might be, since no one knows when Matt 24:36; Mark 13:32,35;  
Christ will return. Acts 1:7; Rev 3:3
- 2) For Scripture the “end of the age” refers to the time between Christ’s 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent, in other words – right now.
- a) 1Corinthians 10:11-12 - "*Now these things happened to them (various judgments on the OT saints) as an example, and they were written for our (NT church's) instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages (aiōn) have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.*"
  - b) 1Peter 1:20 - "*For He (Christ) was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times (literally “at the end of the times”) for the sake of you (the saints)*"
- 3) We are in the end of the age, because the final revelation of God has been given. Heb 1:1-2
- a) What else do you need besides the Eternal Word of God becoming flesh and dying for your sins and giving you the Holy Spirit?
  - b) A quick reading of the “end is near” passages<sup>1</sup> from the NT could cause the secular mind to think “the apostles got it wrong.”
    - i) Yes, it has been two thousand years, 2Pet 3:7-9  
because God is getting all His saints.
    - ii) And praise God it has been two thousand years for our and our prodigies’ sake!
  - c) Fundamentally, the final end is near because we are in the end game now.
- 4) The “final invasion” has begun. 1John 2:8
- a) Remember, the 1<sup>st</sup> Horseman of Revelation 6 is Christ. Rev 6:1-2
  - b) He, and His Gospel, are right now going out “*conquering and to conquer.*” – Rev 6:2b
  - c) The things hidden and obscure in the “ancient times” are now clear Eph 3:9; Col 1:26  
to the saints.
  - d) In Christ we “*have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age (aiōn) to come,*” - Hebrews 6:5b

<sup>1</sup> Rom 13:11-12; Phil 4:5; Heb 10:25,37; James 5:8; 1Pet 4:7; 1John 2:18; Rev 1:3; 3:11; 22:7,10,12,20.



- e) To give a worldly analogy: It is like Operation Overlord, in June 1944, to invade and liberate Europe from the Nazis.
  - i) Yes, there was almost another year of hard fighting, which in warfare, I would think, would seem like a long time for those in it.
  - ii) However, for the West, it was clearly the beginning of the end for the Nazis.
  - iii) When you look at the war from the big picture, there is no way the Axis can win World War 2 in 1944.

## **This Age – The “Very” End of the Age**

- 1) But doesn't the Bible speak about an “end of the age” at the *VERY* “end of the age”?
  - a) Aren't there prophecies about the Great Tribulation, the rapture, the coming of the antichrist, and how bad *it will get at the VERY* end?
    - Matt 13:39-40,49; **24:3ff**; 28:20;  
1Thes 4:17; 2Thes 2:3  
1John 2:18,22; 4:3; 2John 7
    - i) Yes, the Bible does speak about a Great Tribulation at the end of the age.
    - ii) Not so much about a rapture.
    - iii) And the focus of the antichrists (note the plural) is already here, though there is the “man of lawlessness.”
  - b) We will be dealing with this very end next week, as we start to work through the 6<sup>th</sup> seal in Revelation 6:12ff.
- 2) However, Pastor Doug believes the Bible puts more of an emphasis on the dramatic power of Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> Advent.
  - a) Yes, there is travail for the church in this age.
    - i) Remember the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> horsemen.
    - ii) Those in Christ have received much but will be persecuted.
      - Mark 10:29-30;  
Luke 18:30
  - b) Yet Revelation was written to encourage the saints to faithfulness.
    - i) To show us that history is unfolding according to God's plan (e.g. the seven sealed scroll) and only the Lamb, once slain, Jesus Christ, can reveal and execute it.
    - ii) Thus we remain faithful knowing this end is but passing away.
- 3) Yes, we have questions about the “end times”, however, do not miss the power we have now.
  - a) Acts 1:7-8 – *“He (Christ) said to them (His Apostles/church), ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.’”*
- 4) We think history is centered around mankind.
  - a) It is not – Praise God!
  - b) It is centered around Christ – Praise God!!
  - c) Yes we live in this “present evil age”.
  - d) However, we have Christ! And the invasion of the Gospel is underway.
  - e) Remember Christ's promise at the end of Matthew: *“and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”* – Matthew 28:20b