

# Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for  
February 2, 2025



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

*"You are those who have stood by Me in My trials; and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." – Luke 22:38-30*

"\*" = Please stand if you are able.

## Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

### Call to Worship – John 6:26-35

*Leader: Jesus answered them and said, Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs,*

**People: But because you ate of the loaves and were filled.**

*Leader: Do not work for the food which perishes,*

**People: But for the food which endures to eternal life,**

*Leader: Which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God,*

**People: Has set His seal.**

*Leader: Therefore they said to Him, What shall we do,*

**People: So that we may work the works of God?**

*Leader: Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God,*

**People: That you believe in Him whom He has sent.**

*Leader: So they said to Him, What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written,*

**People: He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.**

*Leader: Jesus then said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven,*

**People: But it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.**

*Leader: For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven,*

**People: And gives life to the world.**

*Leader: Then they said to Him, Lord,*

**People: Always give us this bread.**

*Leader: Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger,*

**People: And he who believes in Me will never thirst.**

## Prayer of Invocation and Confession

### Gospel Absolution Texts – Romans 4:8-13

\*Hymn #16 (red hymnal) – "Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord"

Scripture Reading – 1Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

## 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 #16C – “Preserve Me, O God”

### 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, 32.2

Leader: *The end of God's appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory* Matt 25:31-46  
Rom 2:5-6

**People: Of His mercy in the eternal salvation of the elect,** Rom 9:22-23

Leader: *And of His justice in the damnation of the reprobate,* Matt 25:21

**People: Who are wicked and disobedient.** Acts 3:19

Leader: *For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and glory,* 2Thes 1:7-10

**People: With everlasting reward in the presence of the Lord;**

Leader: *But the wicked who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ,*

**People: Shall be cast into eternal torments,**

Leader: *And be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord,*

**People: And from the glory of His power.**

### Ministry of the Word

#### Prayer of Illumination

\*Sermon Text – Revelation 7:1-8

\*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 Sixth Seal – The ‘Rapture’”

(A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7)

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

#### Invitation & Warning

#### Prayer

Scripture – Romans 4:11

# Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup Prayer of Thanksgiving

\***Hymn #424** (red hymnal) – “Shepherd of Souls”

\***Benediction**

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

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## Announcements

- Starting on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and meeting every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Night, Vika will be leading the **Gen Alpha Trinity Club**, a group for kids born between 2010 to 2024. The group will meet at Pastor Doug’s house during the time of Wednesday Study (7:00 to 8:30 PM).
- *Snow Cancellation Policy*: Though TRC is loathed to cancel **Sunday worship**, because of the rural location of the Grange, and that Rt 263 seems to be of low snow-plowing priority we are going to take a moderate approach to cancellation. If we cancel, everyone will be emailed, and it will be posted on Channel #3 and the church’s facebook & webpage.  
When it comes to **week-day studies**, Pastor Doug is very liberal about canceling (he lives on rural hill). He will email and call everyone, however, if in doubt, study is probably canceled.

## Upcoming Events

- 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 <b>Gen Alpha Club</b> (on 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays)
<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

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

Revelation 7:1-8  
"The Sixth Seal – The Saints Sealed"  
A Sermon Series on Revelation 4-7  
February 2, 2025

## Introduction

- 1) Last week we started, in Revelation 6:12ff, reading about the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal.
- 2) We have been working through the Seven Sealed Scroll which is God's plan for this age.
  - a) Only the risen Christ, the Lamb once slain, can open the seals, thus revealing and executing God (the Father's) will. Rev 6:1ff
  - 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 1st 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> (red), 3<sup>rd</sup> (black) & 4<sup>th</sup> (ashen) 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
  - c) The 6<sup>th</sup> Seal is about the very end of the age.
    - i) At the end of the Great Tribulation, when all of creation turns against the wicked, and they cry out in godless fear and terror because the "the great day" of the "wrath of the Lamb" "has come". Rev 6:16-17
    - ii) Let's recap the basic biblical outline of time.

## Biblical Outline of Time & History

<b>BEFORE ALL TIME</b>	Before the creation of everything, including time, when there is only the Triune God.	Jude 25 Heb 13:8
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<b>THIS AGE</b>	<p><i>Past:</i> The "Ancient Time" – OT Times / Before Christ</p> <p><i>Present:</i> This present age which is passing away. With Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> Advent it's the "<i>full completion of the ages</i>" thus (the beginning of) the end of this age.</p> <p><i>Future:</i> Great Tribulation, which ends with Christ's return, His 2nd Advent, ending this age.</p>	<p>Acts 3:21</p> <p>Luke 20:34; Gal 1:4 1Cor 2:6-8; 10:11 Heb 9:26; Titus 2:13</p> <p>Matt 24:3,21,29 1Thes 4:16-5:11</p>
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<b>AGE TO COME</b>	Everyone is resurrected. The wicked go into hell. The righteous go into the new heavens and new earth. For all eternity.	Heb 6:5 Rev 21:1ff

## Revelation 7:1-3

- 1) As the wicked cry in terror as creation begins to turn against them, the Apostle John (the author of Revelation) sees "*four angels standing at the four corners of the earth*". – Rev 7:1b
  - a) Angels have always been at work throughout this age as agents of God's providence.
    - i) One of their duties, as we see throughout Revelation, is that they carry out God's judgments & decrees.<sup>1</sup>
    - ii) At critical parts of history, angelic activity increases and becomes more obvious, which certainly will happen at the very end.
  - b) There are four because they are "*holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree*." – Rev 7:1c
    - i) "Four" represents the whole earth. Is 11:12; Jer 49:36; Ezek 7:2;  
Dan 7:2; Zech 6:5; Matt 24:31; Rev 20:8
    - ii) The "winds" represent God's judgment. Dan 7:2; 8:8; 11:4; Ezek 37:9;  
Zech 2:6; Mark 13:27
    - iii) The total destruction/redoing of creation is temporarily being held back solely because of all the saints.
- 2) Another angel appears, "*ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.'*" – Revelation 7:2-3
  - a) The angel ascends from the rising of the sun.
    - i) A final dawn is upon the creation.
    - ii) Remember light was the first thing made, and of all the creation, it most represents God. It gives clear separation from good (the light) and darkness. It brings life and revelation. Gen 1:3ff; **Ps 36:9**;  
Prov 6:23; 2Tim 1:10  
John 1:4; 8:12
    - iii) Also, the east, from where the sun rises, is where it began, with the Garden of Eden. Gen 2:8

<sup>1</sup> Rev 1:1; 8:2-13; 9:1,14-15; 10:8-10; 11:15; 12:7; 14:6,8-9,15,17-19; 15:1,6-7; 16:1; 17:1,7; 17:1,7; 18:1,21; 19:17; 20:1; 21:9,12; 22:6,16.

b) The angel as the seal of “the living God.”

- i) God is described as “the living God” throughout Scripture. Deut 5:26; Josh 3:10; 1Sam 17:26,36; Is 37:4,17; Jer 10:10; 23:36; Dan 6:26; Matt 16:16; Acts 14:15; 2Cor 3:3; 6:16; 1Tim 3:15; 4:10; Heb 10:31; 12:22
- ii) This is not merely saying God exists and that the Triune God of Scripture is the only true God.
- iii) It teaches that God speaks and acts, and acts powerfully, and there will be justice.
- iv) It means Christ, the Eternal Word of God, His Son, who is fully God, and became human, did die, but has resurrected and reigns. John 1:1-5,14,18
- v) Thus, God is a god of the living, not a god of the dead. Matt 22:32
- vi) That the Church, Christ’s spiritual body on earth, is the Temple of the Living God. 2Cor 6:16  
1Tim 3:15; Heb 12:22
- vii) And that He is with His people. Rom 9:26
- viii) As King Darius came to realize when confronted by the prophet Daniel, “*I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and His dominion will be forever. He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.*” – Daniel 6:26-27
- ix) As the prophet Jeremiah taught: “*But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure His indignation.*” – Jeremiah 10:10
- c) This angel, of the living God, cries out to the other four angels to wait before they “harm” the creation because all the saints have to be sealed.
- d) The seal / signet, is the device to put one’s official stamp on something or someone.
- e) Here the saints are being sealed on their forehead for the living God.  
But, why the forehead for this spiritual marking?
- i) It is one of the most prominent parts of the body, thus easily identifies anyone with a seal on it.
- ii) In the Old Covenant, Israel is called to literally put the Scriptures (in phylacteries) on their forehead. Deut 6:8  
Ex 13:9,16
- iii) A holy mark was given to the OT priests on their foreheads. Ex 28:38
- iv) It’s the mark given to the saints in Revelation 7:2-3; 14:1; 22:4.
- In Revelation 14:1 “*His (Christ’s) name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.*” (Note the Trinitarian language!)
  - In Revelation 22:4, clearly in the new heavens & new earth, it reads “*they (the saints) will see His (God’s) face, and His name will be on their foreheads.*” – Revelation 22:4
- f) The wicked have evil marks on their foreheads. Rev 13:16  
And to harden your forehead is a sign of rebellion. Ezek 3:8-9
- g) The saints receive God’s seal, which:
- i) Marks them as God’s own, a seal is a sign of ownership. SoS 8:6
- ii) It certifies their genuine character. Esther 3:12
- iii) It protects them against tampering. Ezek 9:4; Matt 27:66; Rev 5:1



- 3) Is this the "rapture?"
- a) Quick answer is "no."
  - b) Many modern American Evangelicals believe in the "rapture", by which they mean a "secret" rapture sometime before the very end when the church is miraculously taken out of the earth to be with Christ and spared the travails of the Great Tribulation.
  - c) Though this is a "secondary issue", Pastor Doug does not believe in this concept of the rapture.
  - d) Why?
    - i) It is a new doctrine created in 19<sup>th</sup> century America.
    - ii) The term "rapture" is not found in Scripture nor the concept, narrowly defined.
    - iii) The Great Tribulation texts clearly teach the church goes through the Tribulation. (Read through Matthew 24)
    - iv) The text that is most cited to defend this rapture is 1Thessalonians 4:17, which clearly is not secret, and is speaking about the very end of the age where the saints will go into the new heavens and new earth.
    - v) One of the main themes of such books as Hebrews, 1Peter, and Revelation is for the church to be long-suffering, patient, and faithful during times of Tribulation, including the Great Tribulation.
    - vi) It fundamentally contradicts our sermon text.
  - e) If you want to define the "rapture" more broadly, about when the Lord comes for the saints, that's fine, that rapture clearly exists, as we are hearing in our sermon text.
- 4) The saints here are not just the saints alive at the very end (as the old translation of the creed calls them the "quick") but all the saints, throughout all the ages.
- a) At the very end, all will be resurrected.
    - i) The Quick will receive new bodies. 1Thes 4:17; 1Cor 15:51-52
    - ii) The dead are given new bodies – resurrected. Job 19:26-27; 1Cor 15:42-44
  - b) The wicked are raised unto dishonor and wrath and the righteous, in Christ, unto honor and glory. John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; 1Cor 15:43; Phil 3:21
- 5) The totality of this is seen in the rest of Revelation 7.

### **Revelation 7:4-8**

- 1) Revelation 7:4-8 describes the sealing of these saints by telling of their number and listing the saints as part of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.
- 2) How many are sealed?
  - a) Answer: 144,000.
  - b) Is this a literal number! Only 144,000 get saved?!
    - i) No, of course not.
    - ii) Revelation uses figurative/symbolic language throughout the book, especially with regards to numbers.
    - iii) For example, there are not seven Holy Spirits. Rev 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6
      - Seven symbolically means perfection in the Bible. Gen 2:1-3; Ex 20:8ff
      - Thus, the work of the Spirit is always perfect and complete.

- iv) Do remember, the Bible is very much against divination, including numerology (trying to predict the future by numbers) and being superstitious, including about numbers. Lev 19:5,26; Is 2:6;  
Deut 18:9-12;  
2Kgs 17:17; I Jer 27:9
- Noting that numbers have symbolic meaning is okay, engaging in numerology or superstition is a sin.
  - Remember, God is sovereign. There is no such thing as luck.
- c) Why 144,000 then? Rev 14:1,3
- i) 144,000 is a symbolic number representing all those sealed by the Holy Spirit.
- ii) 144,000 comes from multiplying biblically symbolic numbers, such as:  
3, 4, 12, 1000.
- iii) 1,000 is a generic symbolic number that represents largeness & completeness. Deut 7:9; Josh 23:10; Ps 50:10;  
Ps 90:4; 91:7; Ecc 6:6; 2Pet 3:8
- iv) 144,000 represents God working in His creation to save the elect.
- v) So,  $3 \times 4 \times 12 \times 1,000 = 144,000$ .
- 3 represents God. Trinity, Gen 1:1-3; Is 6:3; Matt 26:61; 28:19
  - 4 represents creation. Is 11:12; Jer 49:36; Ezek 1:15; 37:9;  
Dan 7:2,17; Mark 13:27; Rev 20:8
  - 12 represents heaven. Rev 12:1; 21:12,14,21; 22:2
  - 1,000 represents completion.
  - So, God will redeem His creation, perfectly and completely.
- vi) Also,  $12 \times 12 \times 1000 = 144,000$ .
- 12 represents the 12 Tribes of Israel, the church of the Old Covenant. Gen 49:28; Matt 19:28;  
Acts 26:7; James 1:1
  - 12 also represents the 12 Apostles, the church of the New Covenant. Matt 10:1-8; 28:18-20  
Luke 9:1
  - 1,000 represents full completion.
  - So, the 144,000 represent all the election throughout all the ages.
- d) This is clearly taught at the end of Revelation: "*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of the heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel. There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.*" – Revelation 21:10-14
- 3) This is why the saints are listed as the Twelve Tribes of Israel.
- a) These are God's elect, true Israel of the Spirit, not of the flesh. Gen 49
- i) Not all Israel is Israel, just like not all that claim to be Christians are true Christians.
- ii) Romans 9:6-8 – "*But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: 'through Isaac your descendants will be named.' That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.*"



- b) Judah, not Reuben is listed first. Gen 49:10; Matt 1:2-3;  
Ezek 34:23-25; 37:24-25;  
Showing the priority of Christ.  
(Who is from the tribe of Judah.)
- c) The New Jerusalem is the combination of all Rev 21:12,14,24; 22:2-5  
believers (Jews & Gentiles).
- d) Those who have faith in Christ are Abraham's Gal 3:7,29; :15-16;  
Rom 9:6-8; Phil 3:3  
children and the true "Israel of God."

## Conclusion

- 1) Hearing about the end should bring about godly fear, assurance and comfort.
  - a) There will be justice.
  - b) 2Peter 3:7 – *"But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men."*
  - c) But this is all part of God's plan and He has promised good in Christ.
  - d) That in the end, the saints will be sealed in Christ.
- 2) But when does this sealing happen?
  - a) Our sermon text clearly teaches about a final sealing.
  - b) However, the Bible teaches that those in faith are sealed right now.
  - c) Another reason why this "*present time*" is also the (beginning) of the "*end of the age.*"
- 3) Christians have been sealed, right now, John 3:33; 6:27; Eph 1:13-14; 4:30;  
Rom 4:11; 2Cor 1:21-22; 2Tim 2:19  
by the Triune God.
  - a) We have been sealed by the Father – Being protected by Him throughout the believer's life.
  - b) We have been sealed by the Son, because it is through Christ we have redemption through His blood.
  - c) We have been sealed by the Holy Spirit, testifying that we are sons of God.
  - d) Ephesians 1:13-14 – *"In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."*
- 4) If you have faith in Christ, which is solely by God's grace, then you have His seal on you: You have been marked as His, certifying you are His child and protected against evil.
  - a) This power is found in the Gospel, which is proclaimed in biblical preaching and the administration of the sacraments.
  - b) That is why the sacraments are called "signs and seals of the covenant of grace." Rom 4:11
    - i) God's sign is upon us.
    - ii) We are sealed and protected by His grace.
  - c) This power, this grace, is proclaimed in Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- 5) As we go to the Supper let us hear **John 6:27-35**.