

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

April 27, 2025



trinityreformedct.org

"After these things He gave them judges until Samuel the prophet." – Acts 13:20

"✠" = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Acts 3:19-24

Leader: Therefore repent and return,

People: So that your sins may be wiped away,

Leader: In order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

People: And that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,

Leader: Whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke

People: By the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

Leader: Moses said, The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren;

People: To Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you.

Leader: And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed

People: From among the people.

Leader: And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken,

People: From Samuel

Leader: And his successors onward,

People: Also announced these days.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – 1Peter 1:10-13

***Hymn #94** – *"How Firm a Foundation"*

Scripture Reading – Acts 13:16-41

Ancient Creedal Proclamation – 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 #99B** – “*The LORD is King Indeed*”

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 Directory for the Publick Worship of God, Of the Preaching of the Word.¹

Ordinarily, the subject of his sermon is to be some text of scripture, holding forth some principle or head of religion, or suitable to some special occasion emergent; or he may go on in some chapter, psalm, or book of the holy scripture, as he shall see fit.

Let the introduction to his text be brief and perspicuous [clear to understanding], drawn from the text itself, or context, or some parallel place, or general sentence of scripture.

If the text be long, (as in histories or parables it sometimes must be,) let him give a brief sum of it; if short, a paraphrase thereof, if need be: in both, looking diligently to the scope of the text, and pointing at the chief heads and grounds of doctrine which he is to raise from it.

In analyzing and dividing his text, he is to regard more the order of matter than of words; and neither to burden the memory of the hearers in the beginning with too many members of division, nor to trouble their minds with obscure terms of art [theological terms].

In raising doctrines from the text, his care ought to be,

First, That the matter be the truth of God.

Secondly, That it be a truth contained in or grounded on that text, that the hearers may discern how God teacheth it from thence.

Thirdly, That he chiefly insist upon those doctrines which are principally intended; and make most for the edification of the hearers.

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Hebrews 11:1-2,32-12:3

***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 – “Preaching History – An Introduction to 1Samuel”

(A Sermon Series on the Beginnings of 1Samuel)

***Hymn #295** – “*Crown Him with Many Crowns*”

***Benediction**

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

¹ thewestminsterstandard.org/directory-for-the-publick-worship-of-god/

Announcements

- TRC is **organizing visitation/meal ministry** that will provide friendly visits, especially to shut-ins, either in-person or by phone. Also, this group will provide temporary meals to those in need or special occasions. If you are interested in either volunteering to help, or know someone who would like a visit, please contact Leona [bllejeune@gmail.com - (860) 480-0370].
- TRC is putting together a simple **Photo-Directory** for members and friends of the church.
 - It will include the following information: First & Last Name, Address, Phone Number, Email Address. (Children will be listed individually next to parents.)
 - If you don't want to be in the book, or to have some of your information not listed, then please email: trc.photobook@gmail.com by **4/27/2025**. Otherwise, we will assume that you are approving of all of the information above being included in the Directory.
 - We would like to include pictures. You can email in a picture you like or you can have your picture taken on a Sunday by Bryan & Kim Simmons. To email in a picture, please send it to Sheryl Gabelmann directly at: sgabelmann058@gmail.com as she will have to upload the photos individually into the software. If you opt to have a photo taken by Bryan & Kim Simmons, they will email your photo to Sheryl after you have approved of the final version of it. To schedule a Sunday to have a picture taken, email: kimsimmons7@optonline.net
 - We hope to have all the information in by April 27th.
 - There will be a review copy to check before we publish the Directory.

Upcoming Events

- **Pizza at the Pastor's House** will be on **Friday, May 16th**, starting at **6:30 PM**. Pizza and drinks will be provided. If you want to bring an appetizer or desert that would be helpful though not required.
- A joint **Elders & Deacons** meeting will be at Pastor Doug's house on **May 24th at 9:00 AM**. Breakfast will be provided.
- **New Members** will be joining on **Pentecost, Sunday, June 8th**.
(Zoom classes will be on Saturday, May 3, 10, 17 & 31 at 9:00 AM.)

Regular Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i>	9:00 – c.10:00 AM	Sunday School Children's curriculum: KVB Publications Women's Study: Sproul's <u>What is Reformed Theology?</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 6:30 – 8:00 PM	Wednesday Study (biblical geography) at Pastor Doug's house Gen Alpha Club (Tiny Theologians) - 2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays 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

Hebrews 11:32-34

“Preaching History – An Introduction to Preaching 1Samuel”

A Sermon Series on the Beginning of 1Samuel

April 27, 2025

Introduction

- 1) When you think of the greatest, godliest, men or women, in the Old Testament, who first comes to mind?
 - a) **Father Abraham** (Abram) – The first patriarch who left his land, trusting in God’s promises? Gen 11:26ff
Acts 7:2
 - b) **Moses** – The law receiver, the greatest Old Testament (OT) prophet and leader of the exodus out of Egypt? Ex 2:10ff; 3:10-15
Deut 40:10; Heb 9:19
 - c) **King David** – the first godly king of a united Israel and author of about half the Psalms. 1Sam 16:13; 2Sam 2:4
Luke 20:42; Acts 13:22
 - d) Others no doubt come to mind: Adam, Noah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Aaron, Joshua, Samson, Solomon, Josiah, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc.
- 2) How about Samuel?
 - a) The last of the judges, those who ruled Israel in between the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob) and before they had kings (Saul, David, Solomon, etc.).
 - b) The writer, historian and seer of a critical time in Israel’s history. (Two books, 1 & 2Samuel, bear his name.)
 - c) He held three great OT offices that usually don’t go together: Priest, prophet and judge.
 - d) Samuel’s greatness is noted in the later parts of the Old Testament (OT) and in the New Testament (NT). 2Chr 35:18; Ps 99:6; Jer 15:1
Acts 3:24; 13:20; Heb 11:32
- 3) Today we are beginning a new sermon series going through the early parts of 1Samuel focusing on Samuel.
 - a) 1Samuel is part of the “history books” of the Old Testament.

- b) The Old Testament is divided up into four sections:
 - i) The Law (“Torah”): Genesis – Deuteronomy
 - ii) History Books: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1Samuel, 2Samuel, 1Kings, 2Kings, 1Chronicles, 2Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
 - iii) Poetry Books: Job –Song of Songs
 - iv) Prophets: Isaiah – Malachi
- c) The New Testament also is divided up into four sections:
 - i) Gospels: Matthew – John
 - ii) History: Acts of the Apostles (only one history book)
 - iii) Letters/Epistles: Romans – Jude
 - iv) Apocalypse: Revelation
- 4) Preaching the history books can be an interesting challenge.
 - a) This might be surprising, since epic stories can be fun (e.g. David vs. Goliath), while things like OT Civil - Ceremonial Laws (e.g. Leviticus), OT prophecy books (e.g. Jeremiah), apostolic systematic theology (e.g. Romans, Hebrews), or end times eschatology (e.g. Ezekiel, Revelation), can be difficult to understand for those new to the faith.
 - b) The history books can be easily misread.

Some Basic Rules on Interpreting Scripture

- 1) We are trying to hear the original intent of the author, which requires some knowledge of the historical and grammatical setting of the text.
- 2) Always put the text in its context, within the chapter, the book and the rest of Scripture. Context! Context! Context!
- 3) Unpack and define the pronouns (e.g. I, you, he, us, you’ll, them, etc.) in context.
- 4) Scripture interprets Scripture:
 - a) The New Testament interprets the Old Testament.
 - b) Clear texts interpret obscure texts.
 - c) Commands have more authority over historical narratives.
- 5) That is why expository preaching (going verse by verse) through a text is generally the preferred method of preaching.
 - a) Though there are times for topical preaching, looking at a particular topic that the congregation should know about, such as our Congregational, Presbyterian and Denominations series.
 - b) As we work through 1Samuel, we will take some tangents when certain texts bring up concepts that are of pressing need today.
 - i) Such as “does prophecy exist today” and the “different roles of men and women.”
 - ii) A sermon is not a lecture, there must be proclamation, with the call to repent, believe and follow.
- 6) Always remember prayer.
- 7) Always remember the main character of the Bible is not you but the Triune God.

About Misreading Scripture

- 1) It is easy to misread Scripture. 2Pet 3:16
 - a) That is why those men who preach & teach must be trained, tested and commissioned by the church. 1Tim 4:14; 5:22
Titus 1:5ff; James 3:1
 - b) That is why parishioners should be good Bereans, able to discern bad preaching. Acts 17:11
- 2) With the history books it is easy to confuse a historical narrative with a command.
 - a) A unique historical event is not the same thing as a command.
 - i) Biblical historical events do have application.
 - ii) Because all Scripture is God breathed and profitable for teaching. 2Tim 3:16
 - b) For example, Acts 16:6 – “*They (Paul & Timothy) passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.*”
 - i) I have heard sermons using this text to explain why evangelizing of Asian countries hasn’t worked.
 - ii) Why is this a crazy interpretation, textually?
 - iii) Yes, it is crazy because many people in Asia do believe, and it violates the Great Commission, but how is it exactly a misreading of the text?
 - iv) First, it is a historical text not a command, it describes a unique moment in NT history.
 - v) Second, “Asia” here doesn’t mean “Japan, China, Korea, etc.” it refers to the Roman province on the western side of modern Turkey.
 - vi) It is where the city Ephesus is located and clearly the Apostles evangelized Asia. [There is a book called Ephesians after all.]
- 3) Another common mistake about reading the historical book is trying to fit the modern individual into the text in an unnatural way.
 - a) This is called the “Dare to Be a Daniel” syndrome.
 - i) When individuals, with the desire to make the Scriptures “practical” and “relevant” read themselves into the text where they shouldn’t.
 - ii) Or preachers who want to guilt parishioners into being missionaries to grow the church and thus demand everyone must be a Daniel.
 - b) It is true, the Bible commands John 13:15; 1Cor 4:16; 11:1; Phil 3:17
1Thes 1:6-7; 2:14; 2Thes 3:9; 1Tim 4:12
Titus 2:7; Heb 6:12; 13:7; 1Pet 5:3
us to imitate the great saints of old.
 - c) The focus is not necessarily to do great works or be doing a particular ministry.
 - i) Though that might happen.
 - ii) And the church does need leaders and those who will serve.
 - d) The focus, above all else, is always to remain faithful, just as the saints of old did.
- 4) None of us are Samuel, or David – they had different callings.
 - a) However, we should strive to be faithful and obedient to God, as they were.
 - b) To begin our series on 1Samuel let us turn to Hebrews.

Hebrews 11:1 – Faith Defined

- 1) The Book of Hebrews is all about explaining who Christ is and why the saints must remain faithful to Him.
- 2) Hebrews 11 is considered the “Hall of Fame of Faith”.
It lists various Old Testament saints as examples of faithfulness.
- 3) Paul, first defines faith: “*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*” – Hebrews 11:1
- 4) This is the famous, great, simple, yet profound definition of faith.
 - a) Faith, trust, belief are all synonyms, all dealing with the same concept.
(Don’t let the secularists fool you into thinking faith and belief are different.)
 - b) Strong faith, that which doesn’t “*shrink back*” (Heb 10:39) is to be sure of what you hope for, fully convinced, though you do not see the thing hoped for now.
 - i) To give a silly worldly example: You just “know” the Pirates will win the 1960 World Series, even though the Yankees are a vastly superior team.
 - ii) You are fully convinced the Pirates will win, even though you haven’t seen it yet.
- 5) The Reformers argued the full definition of faith, taking in all that which the Bible teaches, has three aspects:
 - a) Intellectual knowledge of thing/person you are believing in. Acts 8:30-35; Rom 10:14-15
 - b) Intellectual assent/agreement in the thing/person you are believing in. John 6:28-29; Heb 11:1
Rom 1:16-17; 5:1-2
 - c) Daily willful trust in the thing/person you are believing in. Rom 4:16-22; 10:10; Eph 3:12
Heb 4:16; 10:38; 11:7-10; James 1:6
- 6) Of course, things of the world can, and in the end, will, fail us.
- 7) The author of Hebrews² is describing the faith the OT saints have in the Triune God.
 - a) In particular the Messiah, the Christ, even though they could not see Him in their time.
 - b) That faith will never fail.

The “Hall of Fame of Faith” in Hebrews

- 1) In Hebrews 11:4-31, the author, list numerous faithful saints in the Old Testament, including; Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Joseph, Moses, Rahab.
- 2) In verse 32, the author of Hebrews concludes the list with “*And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,*” - Hebrews 11:32
 - a) **Gideon**: Judge and military hero of Israel, famous for the fleece. Judg 6:11ff
 - b) **Barak**: General under the Judge and prophetess Deborah. Judg 4:6ff
 - c) **Samson**: Last Judge in Judges known for his strength. Judg 13:24ff
 - d) **Jephthah**: Judge known for his rash vow of his daughter. Judg 11:1ff
 - e) **David**: The great King of Israel, known for writing half of the Psalms. 1Sam 16:13ff

² The Book of Hebrews does not directly state who wrote it. Pastor Doug’s two favorite guesses is either Apollos or it is a sermon given by Paul and written down by Luke.

f) Last one named: **Samuel**.

1Sam 1:20ff

- i) Why is Samuel the last named?
The text doesn't directly say.
- ii) Samuel is the last judge, because after him will come the kings of Israel, as we seen in the text where three judges are listed then King David.
- iii) Samuel is considered the first of the great prophets that came after Moses, as we see in the text: "*Samuel and the prophets*."
- iv) Clearly, Samuel is a key transitional figure in the OT.
- v) No other person in the Bible, save Christ (and Melchizedek – who might be Christ Himself)³, holds the office of priest, prophet and "leader".⁴
[Samuel was just a judge, Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.]

Rev 17:14

Rev 19:16

3) In verses 33-38 the author lists the various acts the saints of old did by faith.

- a) They range from glorious things by worldly standards.
(e.g. Conquering kingdoms, became mighty in war, putting foreign armies to flight)
- b) To things the world wouldn't think glorious or of worth.
(e.g. Being ill-treated, imprisoned, destitute, and even tortured to death.)

4) The key point, is whatever they were called to, and all things are by the hand of God, they remained faithful.

Mark 10:29-30

Is 45:7; Rom 8:28

5) As the author writes, "*And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.*" – Hebrews 11:39-40

- a) The critical thing is they "*gained approval*" with God because they trusted in Him.
- b) Even though they did not see what they were promised.
- c) Note, the word "*promised*" is in the singular.
 - i) It is literally, "*did not receive what was the promised.*"
 - ii) It is a singular promise they were given: The Messiah, the Anointed One, will redeem God's people.
- d) Though He did not appear in these saints' lifetime, they found approval with God, and remained faithful, because they were trusting in Christ.
- e) The OT saints were saved in the same way we are: By faith in Christ.
 - i) They had their faith in God's promise yet revealed.
 - ii) Yes, we still await Christ's return, however remember our series on Revelation 4-7.
 - iii) Scripture puts more of the focus on Christ's 1st Advent (Christmas-Easter) than Christ's 2nd Advent (return at the end of the age) – Though the 2nd Advent is still important.
 - iv) What an advantage we have!
 - The clarity on being on the other side of the cross.
 - The special indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

³ Gen 14:18ff; Ps 110:4; Heb 5:6-7:17.

⁴ Ps 2:6; Is 9:6-7; Jer 13:13; Lam 2; Matt 21:5; Luke 4:18,21; Acts 3:21-22; Phil 2:8-11; Heb 4:14-15; 5:5-7.

- As Peter in a similar way puts it: *"It was revealed to them (OT saints) that they were not serving themselves, but you (NT church), in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look."* – 1Peter 1:12
- f) The author then makes an extraordinary statement: *"because God had provided something better for us (NT Church), so that apart from us (NT Church) they (OT Saints) would not be made perfect."* – Hebrews 11:40
 - i) The OT Saints are not made perfect without us, the NT church!
 - ii) God gave something better by including us (NT Church) with them (OT Saints) so that all His people would be made perfect in Christ.

Conclusion

- 1) What is the desired outcome from knowing we have all these examples of faith?
 - a) That we must go out and do great and good things like them?
 - b) No, not necessarily.
 - c) Though if you are called to such things, then be faithful.
 - d) And the church does need laborers.
- 2) These examples are given with the call for us to remain faithful.
 - a) Being faithful to what God has called us to, whether it is to be the greatest evangelist of the age, or a simple housewife tending to her husband and elderly parent.
 - b) Remember, *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"* – Matthew 16:26
 - c) Even the Apostle Paul warned himself to be faithful, lest after preaching to others he himself would become disqualified. 1Cor 9:27ff
- 3) We see this in the next chapter of Hebrews, after the "Hall of Fame of Faith" in Hebrews 11.
 - a) *"Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us,"* - Hebrews 12:1a
 - i) Note, the saints of old are not just examples.
 - ii) They are in heaven right now crying out for us.
Remember Revelation 6:10.
 - b) What is the outcome of all these witnesses?
 - i) Hebrews 12:1b – *"let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,"*
 - ii) If you trust in Christ, you will daily die to sin and live for Him.
 - iii) True faith, endures whatever "race" the Lord puts before us.
 - c) So, we are to "pull ourselves up by our boot-straps?"
 - i) No. There is no power in yourselves.
 - ii) Instead, *"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith"* – Hebrews 12:2a

- iii) True power is faith in Christ, which will create in us hope and produce many good works of love.⁵

Rom 1:16
1Cor 1:18,24
 - iv) Also note, your faith is not from yourself, but it is a gift from God!
 - v) Our calling, and daily struggles, are the fruit our Lord is using to increase our faith and prepare us for heaven.
 - d) Christ is the supreme example, *“who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”* – Hebrews 12:2b-3
 - i) Not that we are trying to *“do what Jesus would do”* – We are not Christ.
 - ii) We are trying to be faithful to Him each day.
 - iii) However, our faith is not in ourselves but in Christ and His cross.
 - v) And He now reigns in heaven, putting His enemies underneath His feet and interceding for us.
- 4) As we go through 1Samuel, note Samuel’s faithfulness, and deal with various topics, always remember to hear Christ and Him crucified, because all Scripture is about Him.

⁵ Faith, Hope & Love are frequently put together in Scripture, and usually in that order: Ps 31:23-24; 119:42,47-49; 146:3,5-6,8; John 5:42,44-47; Rom 5:1-5; 12:5,9-12; 1Cor 13:4,7,13; 2Cor 5:7,11,14; Gal 5:5-6; Eph 1:12-13,15,18-19; 2:4,8,12; 4:2,4-5; Col 1:4-5,23; 1Thes 1:3-5; 5:8; 2Thes 2:13-16; 1Tim 1:1-2,4-5; 4:10-12; Titus 1:1-2,4,6,8-9; 3:4,7-8,15; Heb 10:23-25; 1Pet 1:3,5,7-9; 1:20-23.