

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

May 4, 2025

*"So that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God,
to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all
the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged." – Deuteronomy 6:2*



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“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Proverbs 23:22-25

Leader: Listen to your father who begot you,

People: And do not despise your mother when she is old.

Leader: Buy truth, and do not sell it,

People: Get wisdom and instruction and understanding.

Leader: The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice,

People: And he who sires a wise son will be glad in him.

Leader: Let your father and your mother be glad,

People: And let her rejoice who gave birth to you.

Leader: Give me (Wisdom speaking, Who is Christ) your heart, my son,

People: And let your eyes delight in My ways.

Prov 1:20; 1Cor 1:24,30

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Matthew 9:5-7

*Hymn #710 – “God of Our Fathers”

Scripture Reading – 1Timothy 4:13-5:8

Ancient Creedal Proclamation – 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 #34C – “O Sons and Daughters, Come”

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 Larger Catechism, 123-124.

Leader: Which is the fifth commandment?

People: **Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God gives you.**

Ex 20:12

Leader: Who are meant by father and mother in the fifth commandment?

Prov 23:22,25

People: **They mean, not only natural parents, but all superiors**

Eph 6:1-2

Leader: In age

1Tim 5:1-2

People: **And gifts;**

Gen 4:20-22; 45:8

Leader: And especially such as, by God's ordinance,

People: **Are over us in place of authority,**

Leader: Whether in family, church,

2Kgs 2:12; 5:13; 13:14; Gal. 4:19

People: **Or commonwealth.**

Is 49:23

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – 1Samuel 1:1-18

***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 – “Family”

(A Sermon Series on the Beginning of 1Samuel)

Ministry of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation & Warning

Prayer

Scripture – Psalm 128

Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #359** – “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

***Benediction**

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

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 [billejeune@gmail.com - (860) 480-0370].
- There is a “Draft” of the **Photo Directory** available for review after Church. If any of your individual information is incorrect or needs to be updated or removed, please make a note of it on the draft so that it can be revised before the final directory is printed and copies made available for members and visitors.

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.)
- **Pool Party/Picnic to be held on Saturday, July 19th at the Gabelmanns, 101 Wallens St., Winsted**, beginning at 12 noon. Hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and an ice cream bar will be provided. Please bring a dish to share if you are able. Bring your swimsuits if you wish to enjoy the pool. This will be held rain or shine as we are not able to plan for a rain date this year. Mark your calendars!

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 <u>Worship</u> (Lord's Supper on the 1 st Sunday of the month) Coffee Hour Fellowship
	10:30 – c.11:40 AM c.11:40 AM	
<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@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

1Samuel 1:1-18

“Family”

A Sermon Series on the Beginning Chapters of 1Samuel

May 4, 2025

Introduction

- 1) What is the purpose of today’s sermon text? *Answer:* Simply, Samuel’s family background.
- 2) Samuel is one of the key figures of the OT.¹
- 3) However, what is the application from Samuel’s family history in 1Samuel 1:1-18?
 - a) One of the best ways to meditate on Scripture is to ask yourself “how would I preach this text?”

Gen 24:61; Josh 1:8; Job 15:2
Ps 1:2; 4:4; 19:14; 27:4; 63:6
Ps 77:5-6,12; Prov 15:28

 - i) To be able to teach/explain something requires you really understand it.
 - ii) It forces you to read it in context, seeking the meaning of the original author, understanding the historical and grammatical background.
 - iii) It forces you to think about how to make application, first to the church, before trying to make the text practical or relevant to yourself.
 - b) There are several themes you could focus on in 1Samuel 1:1-18.
 - i) Hannah as an example of faith – probably the popular approach today, though only focusing on a few select parts of her story.
 - ii) Or, maybe the importance of church worship and/or prayer.
 - c) Good preaching, however, is prophetic, in the broad sense.
 - i) Not in the narrow sense of adding to, or going beyond, Scripture! 1Cor 4:6
 - ii) But in the broad sense of discerning the times, 1Chr 12:32; Rom 12:6
and the needs of the congregation, and 1Cor 12:10; 14:1ff
then bringing Scripture to bear. 1Tim 1:18
- 4) Because of our fallen nature, it is usually easier to discern other people’s problems rather than our own.
 - a) If we went back and looked at Christians from earlier times, we would clearly see what they were doing wrong and/or the evils from society they were too tolerant with.

¹ Samuel was a writer, historian and seer of a critical time in Israel’s history. (1Sam 9:19; 10:25; 1Chr 9:22; 26:28; 29:29). Two books of the Bible, 1 & 2Samuel, bear his name. He is 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.). (1Sam 7:6,15; Acts 13:20) He is the first of the great prophets since the time of Moses, the greatest OT prophet. (Deut 34:10; 1Sam 3:20; 19:20; Acts 3:24; Heb 11:32) He is called by God to ordain Israel’s first king (Saul) and then one of its greatest kings (David). (1Sam 13:14; 16:13; Ps 89:3-4; Acts 13:22) He held three great OT offices that usually don’t go together: Priest, prophet and judge. 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)

b) For example:

- i) We would find the tolerance of slavery, or government sanction of torture, as problematic.
- ii) Or that certain groups, such as kings, being above the law.
- iii) [By the way, all were ended because of the out working of Christianity, especially through the Reformation.]

5) But let us remember our Lord's warning about first seeing the plank in our own eye. Matt 7:3ff

a) What would our fore-bearers say are our major sins?

- i) There are many they could list.
- ii) I think the first thing they would notice is that we have almost completely destroyed the family and complete rebellion against God's created order of the roles of men and women in favor of hyper-individualism.

b) Those things God created in the Garden of Eden before the fall!

c) The thing (family) which is more important than ending slavery, or government torture, or doing away with despotism.

5) Disagree that the family is critical?

a) *Question:* What is the first commandment from the Second Table of the Ten Commandments that deals with how we should begin to love our neighbor?

b) #5 – "*Honor your father and your mother.*" – Exodus 20:12a

c) By the way, it is from the working out of the logic of this commandment that the earlier Reformers would use to end such things like slavery, torture and despotism.

d) Because this is the first commandment with a promise, "*that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.*" – Exodus 20:12b

i) This applies both to nations and the church.

ii) Go read in the New Testament, Ephesians 5:1-9.

6) Let us ponder 1Samuel 1:1-18 and see what simple things that for all generations they took as normal and now they offend us, or to hear of things we don't even realize we have lost.

Is the Family Nuclear or Extended?

1) Samuel can trace his family back for five generations.

a) His father is "*Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph*" – 1Sam 1:1.

b) Can you name your lineage back 5 generations?

2) We have been taught the "nuclear family" is the family.

a) Nuclear family is: Just the parents and the children.

b) It is true, the primary forming unit of the family is "*a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*" – Genesis 2:24b

c) However, we have been trained by the world to think family is only about the nuclear family, this is not biblical.

d) Scripture puts great emphasis on the "extended family."

3) From our sermon text, the very first verse of 1Samuel is a genealogy of Samuel.

a) One of the great and critical blessings given to Abram is generations will come from him. Gen 12:1-3

b) It's not just about one's children, it is about one's "*children's children*". Gen 45:10; Deut 4:25
Ps 103:17; 128:5-6; Prov 13:22

Prov 13:22 – "*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.*"

c) We don't even think like this!

d) The concept of the "nuclear family", and "extended family", are 20th century creations.

e) For all of history, and many places still on this planet today (where secularism & individualism haven't dominated), the distinction between "nuclear" and "extended" would be completely alien.

4) We don't think generationally. We think about ourselves first, which is a problem.

a) Does a man work because he is trying to enjoy his free time?

i) Or, is he working to provide for his family?

ii) And by family does this include his "children's children" and future generations?

b) Now, there is a time for recreation, however, is our focus about ourselves or our neighbor? Which can include your great-grandchildren yet to be born.

Children Are a Blessing

1) Our sermon text then explains that Elkanah's wife, Hannah, was deeply grieved because she didn't have any children.

2) *Question:* Does our society encourage and train young women to be good wives and mothers?

a) Do we moderns desire as a priority to get married and have children? (Note the plural!)

b) Does our society encourage and train young women to be good wives and mothers?

c) Do we encourage and train young men to be good husbands and fathers?

d) Fulfilling their created roles of the husband, as the head of the family, to provide for, protect and govern his family and women to nurture, support and care for the home?

3) *Answer:* We teach them the exact opposite.

a) We completely ignore, or denigrate, the role of men, while teaching women to engage in active rebellion against the created order.

b) Look at the beginning of the 2023 "Barbie" movie. (I'm not recommending it.)

i) We used to give girls baby dolls to play with but now we give them Barbie dolls.

ii) We have gone from training women (because playing with toys is a form of training) to be mothers to being instagram influencers.

c) When we now encourage young women to think only about college and careers with little to no reference that maybe they should also think about being a mother and a wife. (I had to repent about this with Rebekah.)

i) Are you saying we shouldn't educate women!

ii) No, however, where do we put the emphasis for women on career or family?

iii) Where does Scripture put the emphasis?

- d) I've developed the "Lady Question" to show this problem.
 - i) Ask a young woman this question: "Is it important for you to be a lady?"
 - ii) Usually, the vast majority freak out and say "No! That is sexist and misogynistic!"
 - iii) Then ask: "Is it important for your boyfriend to be a gentleman?"
 - iv) They will quickly will say "Yes, of course"
 - v) Concluded with: "Stop and think about that."
 - vi) Young ladies have been taught something very bad.
- 4) The problem is so bad in the West (North America, Western Europe, and parts of Asia – Japan, Korea, etc.) we are literally committing national suicide.
 - a) The vast majority of western countries are below the replacement rate.
 - i) The "replacement rate" is the number of children the average woman needs to have to keep a population stable from one generation to the next.
 - ii) The Replacement Rate is 2.1 children per the average woman.
 - b) In 1800 the average Fertility Rate (the number of children an average woman would have) in the USA was 7.03.
 - i) In 1960 it was 3.58.
 - ii) In 2023 it is 1.62.
 - c) Western governments are beginning to panic about how to solve this problem.
 - i) It is almost comic because they can't figure out the solution, coming up with such ideas as tax incentives or mass immigration.
 - ii) Refusing to deal with the real problem: We have created a state sponsored death cult.
 - Which overtly wars on the family
 - Promoting divorce, feminism, birth control, abortion, perversion, etc.
 - And then we are surprised people are not getting married and having children.
- 5) The Bible teaches children are a blessing.

Proverbs 17:6 – *"Grandchildren are the crown of old men, and the glory of sons is their fathers."*

Gen 33:5; 48:4; Deut 7:13; 28:4
Ps 113:9; 127:3-5; 128; Prov 17:6
- 6) How many moderns hear Hannah's story and have no idea why she is grieved. Why? Because we have trained them to hate the created order, including their very nature, and to rebel against it. (Don't believe me, how many of the older generation who bought into this ideology and now regret they don't have family around them as they enter old age?)

Being a Lady

- 1) Hannah shows great faith even during times of sorrow and trial.
- 2) We read, 1Samuel 1:6-7 – *"Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her; so she wept and would not eat."*

- 3) Do we generally avoid suffering? Sure. 1Cor 7:21
- a) But never at the cost of what God values, let alone to violate one of His commands.
 - b) How many of us, if we were in Hannah's place, would immediately think of divorce, that thing God hates. Mal 2:16
Matt 19:6-8
 - c) Instead, Hannah does grieve, but turns it over to God, knowing that it is God who "*closed her womb*" yet still cries out for mercy.
- 4) The idea that we should endure suffering, let alone rejoice in it for the sake of the Gospel, is completely alien to the modern mind and maybe the hardest thing for us moderns to hear.²
- 5) At one point Hannah is so "*greatly distressed*" (literally "*bitter of soul*") that while praying and weeping she vows³ in her prayer by saying "*O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.*" – 1Samuel 1:11
- a) The "giving to the Lord" refers to the Nazirite vow found in Numbers 6:1ff. Judg 13:5
 - b) Usually for a short period of time an OT saint makes a special vow, dedicating that time to God by experiencing what it is like to be an OT priest by not drinking alcohol, not having one's hair cut, or touching a dead body.
- 6) Hannah's good character is seen by what happens next.
- a) She continues to pray, literally "multiplying" her prayers. 1Sam 1:12
 - b) Eli, the high priest sees her, and because he sees her praying silently, though with her lips moving, he thinks she is drunk and says to her, "*How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your wine from you.*" – 1Samuel 1:14b
 - c) So, what is a godly woman's response to a minister who rebukes her in church, even though his rebuke is incorrect?
 - i) How many modern women would storm out greatly offended.
 - ii) Hannah does defend herself but shows respect for God's house and those above her.
 - d) Scripture commands women to be "gentle and quiet" Prov 19:13-14; 1Pet 3:3-4
1Tim 2:9-11; Titus 2:3-5
in spirit, what we used to call being a Lady.
 - e) Hannah shows much deference and respect as she explains herself: "*No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed (literally "severe") in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the LORD. Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation.*" – 1Samuel 1:15b-16
- 7) Clearly, our Western culture wars against such godliness in women.
- i) However, does the church do any better?
 - ii) Or have we lead the way in promoting such ungodliness?
- 8) However, the two shall become one, so let us look at the other gender.

² Matt 5:10-12; John 15:20; Acts 5:41; Rom 8:18; 2Cor 1:3-7; Eph 6:5-8; 1Tim 6:1; 2Tim 3:12; Titus 2:5; Heb 12:5-11; 1Pet 2:18-21; 3:14; 4:12-14

³ A few in the Bible had the Nazirite vow given to them all their lives: Samuel, Samson (who completely failed at it) and John the Baptist. (Judg 13:5; Luke 1:15) The Old Testament clearly allows vows. (Num 30:1-16; Ps 76:11; 116:14,18) Though testing God, and rash vows, are dangerous. (Deut 6:16; Judg 11:30-40; Ps 95:8-9; Is 7:10-12) The faithful Hannah's vow is within the guidelines of the Old Testament Law. The Lord Jesus, however, warns against vows. (Matt 5:33-34; James 5:12; Acts 18:18?)

Being a Man

- 1) Scripture is very clear: The man is the head of the household. He has the responsibility to provide for and protect his family and has the authority to govern it.

Gen 3:16; 1Cor 11:3ff
Eph 5:22-24,33; 6:4
Col 3:18; 1Tim 2:9-15; 3:4-5
Titus 1:6; 2:5; 1Pet 3:1-7
- 2) In today's sermon text we see several examples:
 - a) Elkanah, Hannah's husband obeyed God's OT commands to worship where the Almighty has commanded.

1Sam 1:3-4,21; Ex 23:14;34:23
Deut 12:5-7; 16:16
 - i) Not only he, but his whole family, and he would provide for his family so they could worship the Lord.

1Sam 1:4 – "he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters;"
 - ii) He showed charity, concern and kindness to his wife Hannah.
 - He would give Hannah a double portion, because he loved her. 1Sam 1:5
 - Tried to comfort her with gentle words. 1Sam 1:8
 - b) Or Eli, the high priest, after hearing Hannah's humble correction reacts with grace.
 - i) He doesn't apologize for doing his job defending God's house and shepherding the saints.
 - ii) He does take her words to heart and blesses her.
 - iii) 1Samuel 1:17b – *"Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him."*
- 3) They are acting, to use the old phrase, like gentlemen. 1Pet 3:1-7
 - a) They are acting like men, providing for their family and the church, yet showing kindness and mercy, especially to a godly woman.
 - b) Because the man is the head of his household, commanded to provide for his family, and thus, his first job is to make sure his household is to serve the Lord.
 - c) How did Joshua put it, *"but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."* – Joshua 24:15b
 - d) Or how about 1Corinthians 14:34-35 – *"The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church."*
 - i) We moderns freak when we hear this passage, thinking it is horribly repressive. (It is not.)
 - ii) We totally miss the duty put upon husbands.
 - iii) The text assumes many women will want to learn, especially about the ways of God!
 - iv) It directs them to first ask their husbands.
 - Why? The husbands are the head of the household and its spiritual well being is their responsible and they will be held accountable for it.
 - Thus, it assumes the husband will be able to teach and teach correctly, lest he takes God's name in vain. Ex 20:7

Conclusion

- 1) First, thank you, many churches would not have tolerated this sermon.
- 2) And if there are forbidden Scriptures that one is not allowed to preach on then that is a clear sign there is an idol and thus aggressive preaching is called for!
- 3) Do any of us feel convicted? Have regret?
 - a) That we have let the world lead us into focusing on ourselves instead of the importance of family?
 - b) I think we all have regrets as we start to realize how much the world has lied to us and how much we have bought into those lies and rebellions.
 - c) I know I do.
- 4) Please note, I am not saying we should never move away from where we were born, or that we have to marry at 18, or one can't have Barbie dolls, or that women shouldn't be educated, etc.
 - a) I am saying we need to understand how much we have bought into worldly ungodly thinking about the family and male/female roles and repent.
 - b) And as we turn away from the world and turn to God we need to do some hard thinking about how things should be done.
- 5) The problem of sin, however, is not new. Remember our text is from the time of the Judges.
 - a) That bleak time when "*there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*" – Judges 21:25
 - b) You can see the problems in our sermon text:
 - i) Elkanah has multiple wives, and though allowed in OT times, it was not the norm of creation, and now forbidden in the New Covenant. Gen 2:24; Matt 19:5
Eph 5:31
1Tim 3:2,12; Titus 1:6
 - ii) The high priest Eli was godly man, however he lost control of his sons (Phinehas and Hophni) who were "*worthless men*". Bringing judgment down on Eli and his family. 1Sam 2:12-17
1Sam 2:22-34
 - iii) Samuel is one of the most godly men in the OT and yet his sons "*did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice.*" – 1Samuel 8:3a
- 4) Then all the elders of Israel
- 5) There are consequences for sin in this life, especially with regards to family. Remember the 5th Commandment.
- 6) However, the main purpose of 1Samual 1:1-18 is to get us to Christ! And in Him, all sins are forgiven, including those sins about family and gender roles.
- 7) So, let us repent of our sins and worldly thinking, let us strive to do what is right, and let us always rest in Christ!