

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

May 25, 2025

*"The horse is prepared for the day of battle,
but victory belongs to the LORD." – Proverbs 21:31*



trinityreformedct.org

“✠” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Isaiah 45:4-7

Leader: *For the sake of Jacob My servant,*

People: **And Israel My chosen one,**

Leader: *I (God) have also called you (the pagan Persian king Cyrus whom God has ordained to cause His people to go back home) **by your name;***

People: **I have given you a title of honor**

Leader: *Though you have not known Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other;*

People: **Besides Me there is no God.**

Leader: *I will gird you, though you have not known Me;*

People: **That amen may know from the rising to the setting of the sun**

Leader: *That there is no one besides Me.*

People: **I am the LORD, and there is no other,**

Leader: *The One forming light and creating darkness,*

People: **Causing well-being and creating calamity;**

Leader: *I am the LORD*

People: **Who does all these.**

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Psalm 118:21-24

***Hymn #64** – *“God, the Lord, a King Remaineth”*

Scripture Reading – Psalm 46

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 #24A – “The Earth and the Riches”**

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 of Faith, 2.2.

Leader:	<i>God has all life, glory, goodness, blessedness,</i>	Ps 119:68; John 5:26; Acts 7:2
People:	In and of Himself;	Rom 9:5; 1Tim 6:15
Leader:	<i>And is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures</i>	
People:	Which He has made,	Acts 17:24-25
Leader:	<i>Nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting His own glory</i>	Job 22:2-3
People:	In, by, unto, and upon them.	
Leader:	<i>He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom</i>	Rom 11:36
People:	Are all things	
Leader:	<i>And hath most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them</i>	Rev 4:11 1Tim 6:15
People:	Whatsoever Himself pleaseth.	Dan 4:25,35
Leader:	<i>In His sight all things are open and manifest, His knowledge is infinite, infallible,</i>	Heb 4:13
People:	And independent upon the creature,	Rom 11:33-34; Ps 147:5
Leader:	<i>So as nothing is to Him contingent,</i>	Acts 15:18
People:	Or uncertain.	Ezek 11:5
Leader:	<i>He is most holy in all His counsels, in all His works,</i>	Ps 145:17
People:	And in all His commands.	Rom 7:12
Leader:	<i>To Him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience</i>	
People:	He is pleased to require of them.	Rev 5:12-14

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – 1Samuel 2:4-9

***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 LORD’s Doing”

(A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8)

***Hymn #65** – “Before LORD’s Awesome Throne”

***Benediction**

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements

- Copies of the **Photo Directory** are available today to take home. Please take just one copy per family/household. Thank you to Bryan and Kim Simmons for their help with the photos and to Vika Winters for tracking the information changes.

Upcoming Events

- **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 **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 (Sermon on the Mount) 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

Sermon Notes

1Samuel 2:4-9
“The LORD’s Doing”
A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8
May 25, 2025

Introduction

- 1) We say that God is Lord, King, sovereign, in control, etc., do we believe it?
 - a) Like so many things of the faith it is easy, yet for us saints in the fallen world hard to fully do it based on trusting the Almighty, lest by God’s grace.
 - b) As seen by that great prayer of the father of the demon possessed boy in Mark 9:24b – *“I do believe; help my unbelief.”*
- 2) We are working through one of the great prayers, psalms, in the Bible: Hannah’s rejoicing of having asked for, and received, a child, and then turning him over to the Lord to be His, as priest in the Lord’s house in Shiloh.
- 3) We read last week how Hannah began her prayer by exulting in the Lord (v.1-2) and then gives a warning to the listeners not to be arrogant because God will judge. (v.3)
- 4) Let’s continue to hear Hannah’s rejoicing as she is greatly moved by the Holy Spirit.

1Samuel 2:4-5 – Contrasts

- 1) 1Samuel 2:4-5 begins with stark unexpected contrasts.
 - a) The weapons of the powerful are broken but the weak & defeated are armed with strength and power. 1Sam 2:4
 - b) Those who are well fed have to get a job to earn food but the starving will no longer ever be hungry. 1Sam 2:5a
 - c) The woman who has no children will have many and she who has many children will wither and pine away. 1Sam 2:5b
 - i) This one of course, Hannah knows very well, having had no child and then blessed to have Samuel, who she joyfully dedicates to the Lord.
 - ii) Remember, children are a blessing from God. Gen 1:28; 33:5; Ps 127:3-5; 128:3-4
Prov 17:6; Is 54:13; John 16:21
 - iii) The word “seven” in the Bible means both literally the “number seven” and also is used figuratively for perfection. Gen 2:1-3; Ps 12:6; Prov 18:21-22
Ruth 4:15; Jer 15:9; Matt 18:21-22
Rev 1:4; 4:5; 5:1; 8:2; 13:1; 16:1
 - iv) And the Lord will give Hannah several other children. 1Sam 2:21

- 2) A brief tangent: Note the parallelism ("mighty – feeble", "shattered – strength", "full – hungry", etc.) this "A then B" pattern is found throughout Old Testament (OT) and is a fundamental quality of Hebrew poetry.
- 3) These verses are teaching a few things:
- a) There will be blessings and judgments. Deut 28:1-2,15; Ps 75:7; Matt 25:1ff; Rom 2:6-8
 - b) How the world perceives things is not reality. Prov 14:12; Rom 12:2; 1Cor 1:18-25
 - c) What seems impossible is not for God.
 - d) As God famously said, "*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' declares the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.'*" – Isaiah 55:8-9
 - e) Or as the Lord Jesus taught, "*And the disciples were amazed at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.'* And they were even more astonished and said to Him, '*Then who can be saved?*' Looking upon them, Jesus said, '*With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.*'" – Mark 10:24-27
 - f) God will turn losers into winners and winners into losers.
- 4) With the blessing of hindsight, the author of Hebrews writes: "*And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel (Hannah's son) and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.*" – Hebrews 11:32-34

1Samuel 2:6 – God is Sovereign Even Over Life & Death

- 1) Hannah then brings our attention to He who does these things, by using the most extreme example: The LORD "*kills and makes alive.*" – 1Samuel 2:6a
- a) God ordains all things, including life and death. Gen 2:7; Job 12:10; 2Kgs 5:7; Job 12:10; Ps 36:9; Ps 139:13-16; Eccles 12:6-7; Is 44:24; Jer 1:5; John 1:3-4
 - b) Deuteronomy 32:39 - "*See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand.*"
 - c) By our worldly thinking we would think life should be first and then death.
 - i) From our perspective that seems like the logical order:
From birth date to death date.
 - ii) Because from a worldly perspective killing is easy, giving life is impossible, especially new life and, in particular, resurrection – new life and a new body.
(Remember our Lord's word from above in Mark 10:24-27.)
- 2) Hannah emphasizes the radical nature of this with the next line: "*He brings down to Sheol and raises up.*" – 1Samuel 2:6b
- a) Sheol means the "the grave", "the pit", the "realm of death." Gen 37:35; 2Sam 22:6 Is 7:11; Amos 9:2
 - b) There are verses in the OT that seem to teach there is no life after death. Job 7:9; Ps 6:5; 30:9; 88:10-12 Ps 115:17; Eccl 9:5,10; Is 38:18-19

- i) For example, Psalm 30:9-10 – *“What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness? Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me; O LORD, be my helper.”*
- ii) That is why the Sadducees (an ancient Jewish religious-political sect) believed there was no resurrection. Matt 22:23-32
Mark 12:18-27
Luke 20:27-38; Acts 23:6-8
- iii) These references are poetic in nature with men turning over their fear of the unnatural nature of death.
 - Psalm 30 is not teaching there is no heaven or resurrection.
 - It is a prayer to avoid death while asking for mercy.
- c) Though the NT is very clear there is life after death, so too is the OT. Gen 5:24; Ex 3:6; 1Sam 2:6
Job 19:25-26; Ps 16:10-11; 49:15
Ps 73:24-26; Is 26:19; Dan 12:2-3
- d) This is not just life after death but resurrection: New eternal life with a new perfect body.
- e) As Job, who is one of the oldest characters in the Bible boldly states: *“As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God”* – Job 19:25-26
- f) Hence, Hannah's "and raises up", she prophetically proclaims God will bring the dead back to life.

1Samuel 2:7-8 – God’s Sovereignty in This Life

- 1) If God controls death and life, and even resurrects the dead, then He can make the poor rich, and the humble/needy/defeated/those of low status, be exalted. 1Sam 2:7
 - a) God raises the poor up from the dust, the needy from the ash heap. 1Sam 2:8a
Zech 9:3-4
 - b) God will cause the lowly to sit with nobles and inherit a seat of honor. 1Sam 2:8b
 - c) As the Psalmist writes in Psalm 113, seemingly directly inspired by Hannah’s prayer: *“He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of His people. He makes the barren woman abide in the house as a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!”* – Psalm 113:7-9
- 2) God will do extraordinary things in this age, not just in the next.
- 3) Why? How?
 - a) Because He is the Creator of All things!
 - b) 1Samuel 2:8b – *“For the pillars of the earth are the LORD’s, and He set the world on them.”*
 - c) God has created the foundations of all things, including the physical laws that govern creation. 2Sam 22:8,16; Job 9:6; 38:4-6
Ps 18:15; 75:3; 104:5; Prov 8:29; 30:4
- 4) God’s sovereign plan is being worked out in this life.
 - a) Whether it is something miraculous by God’s dramatic power, such as Samuel calling down thunder and rain in 1Samuel 12:16-17
 - b) Or something that seems ordinary to us, like when Hannah became pregnant.
 - i) 1Samuel 1:19b – *“And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.”*

ii) God also works through ordinary, or secondary, means.¹

Gen 8:22; Ex 21:13; Deut 19:5
1Kgs 22:28,34; Is 10:6-7; Jer 31:35

iii) Because all things have been ordained and decreed by Him.

Ps 135:6; Prov 16:9,33; Is 46:9-10; 45:7
Dan 4:35; Acts 4:27-28
Rom 8:28; 9:15,18; 11:33; Eph 1:11; Heb 6:17

5) God acts contrary to how the world thinks.

a) The world focuses on selfishness, pride, violence and success.

b) The church focuses on faith, hope and love in Christ.

1Cor 13

6) You see this throughout the Old Testament Church.

a) When God's people were gathered into the nation-state of Israel.

b) Israel fought many wars but throughout the Scripture it is taught and shown that God brings the victory.²

c) When Israel trusted in themselves they failed. When they trusted in God they succeeded, as we will see later in 1Samuel.

Num 14:40-42; Judg 1:19
1Sam 4:3,10-11; 13:11-13
2Ch 16:7-9

7) In our earthly way of thinking we tend to focus on our self and the immediate.

a) And this is sometimes understandable and not always wrong.

i) The faithful Hannah was grieved she had no child and prayed and vowed to the Lord for one.

1Sam 1:2,6-7,10-11

ii) The Lord Jesus, He who is God, and without sin, prayed, deeply grieved in Gethsemane before the cross.

Matt 26:36ff
Mark 14:32ff

b) You might say to me: "But Hannah had her prayer answered, so it was easy for her."

i) I would guess, that if you added up all your prayers throughout your life you would be amazed how many the Lord has answered.

(Though we tend to forget about that and focus on the negative.)

ii) And praise God, He doesn't answer all our prayers, because even our most godly prayers for a desired outcome could actually be contrary to our good and His glory.

- What if God the Father answered Jesus's prayer to avoid the cross?
- His request was godly, even though He knew the cross was His purpose.
- But how did He end that prayer? *"Yet not what I will, but what You will."*
- Mark 14:36

iii) And look at Hannah, she received a child (Samuel) and then had to give him over to the Lord at around the age of three, yet she does it joyfully.

- How did she do this? By God's grace she comprehended the big picture.
- When you step back, and look at what God is doing to, and for, His people it is amazing.

¹ For the difference between primary and secondary causes see our sermon from October 6, 2024 on Revelation 5:1.
https://trinityreformedct.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Bulletin-2024_10_06-Sermon.pdf
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BggqqckeUMc>

² Ex 14:13-14; 17:11-13; 23:27; Deut 1:30; 3:22; 20:4; Josh 10:10-11,42; 23:10; Judg 4:15; 7:22; 1Sam 7:10; 17:45-47; 2Sam 8:6; 2Kgs 19:35; 2Chr 20:15.

- iv) Hannah's child, Samuel, is not only will be a priest, he is considered the first of the great prophets to come after Moses, and being the last Judge he will anoint the first king of Israel, and from King David's line will come the King of Kings.

8) The focus on the church is key.

- a) One of the reasons Hannah could have such joy is because her focus was on Christ (see verse 10!) and the church, over the blessings of a family.
- b) Family is a great blessing.
- c) But we have to rightly order our loves, as Hannah did.

1Samuel 2:9 – Conclusion

1) Look at the final verse of our sermon text: *"He keeps the feet of His godly ones, but the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; For not by might shall a man prevail."* – 1Samuel 2:9

- a) God promises that His godly ones will be kept by Him, that His people's feet will not slip. Ps 91:11, 12; 121:3
Prov 3:26; 1Pet 1:5
- b) The wicked will be silenced. They dwell in darkness in this life and fully in the fire and darkness in the next. Matt 6:23; 8:12
Matt 22:13; 25:30
- c) It is not by the might of man that anything will endure.
- d) Look at all the great empires that have come against God's people: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Greece, Roman, etc. They all have failed and are now gone.

2) We respond in faith. But what does that mean?

- a) First and foremost, we trust and rest in Christ and His Gospel.
 - i) That our sins are forgiven and we are His.
 - ii) Ephesians 2:8-10 – *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."*
- b) We trust in a good outcome, whatever it might be in this life.
 - i) We believe in 1Samuel 2:9
 - ii) Knowing God is working out His plan.
 - iii) We are called to be faithful not necessarily successful.
 - iv) Being faithful and having it not work out in this life is not sin but faithfulness.
 - Better a church be faithful and shut down rather than it grows in influence worldly and becomes a synagogue of Satan. Rev 2:9; 3:9
 - The smallest churches in Revelation 2-3 (Smyrna & Philadelphia) were among the most faithful. Rev 2:8-11
Rev 3:7-13
 - v) There are times when there is a drought of the Word of God in a particular land, in which case our calling, as always, is to be faithful not necessarily successful. 1Sam 3:1; 28:5-6
Amos 8:11-12; Matt 13:13,58
Acts 13:44-46; 16:6-7
 - Such is the time Hannah lived in.
 - We are reading her great prayer in 1Samuel 2:1-10

- But look at the very next chapter: “*Now the boy Samuel (Hannah’s son) was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent.*” – 1Samuel 3:1

- Or the fact that the godly Samuel’s children (Hannah’s grandchildren) 1Sam 8:1-3 did not follow in Samuel’s, or Hannah’s, godly ways.

vi) Even with these conditions Hannah rejoiced in the Lord, knowing that His people will be protected, and thus she remained faithful.

c) We remain faithful to God’s Word

i) We have to do things the right way, prioritizing what God does and putting secondary what God puts secondary.

ii) This is very hard for modern American Christians.

iii) We think as long as we can quote John 3:16 then we can engage in any and all sorts of pragmatic schemes to be successful.

iv) This requires a strong knowledge of God and His Word 2Tim 2:15
and wisdom to correctly understand and apply it. 2Pet 3:14-16

3) Should we, the church, just sit around and wait for God to do things or work hard for His Kingdom?

a) Of course we should work hard. However, notice the very human centric, pragmatic, nature of the sentence above.

b) Hannah did a lot of work: She obeyed and respected her husband and the church, she was diligent in worship – both going to Shiloh and fulfilling her OT vow, she willingly put the church first by giving away her son unto the service of the Lord, and she prayed.

c) The work in the church we need to do is what the Lord commands us to do, Ex 20:1ff
and the first thing He commands us to do is worship.

i) Yes, there are other things to be done (discipleship, charity to members, proclaiming the Gospel to the world, etc.)

ii) However, do we have the correct focus on what God wants us to focus on?

d) Hannah learned that in the battles of life, especially in the church, Ps 33:16-17
it is not strength or human wisdom that brings victory. Jer 9:23

c) Because God gives Rom 8:37; 1Cor 15:56-57;
the victory. Heb 2:14f; 1John 5:4; Rev 21:4

4) Remember John’s reaction when he sees Christ in a vision and our Lord’s declaration: “*When I (John) saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades (Greek version of Sheol).’*” – Revelation 1:17-18

5) Thus David can pray: “*For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*”