Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational Lord's Day Worship for June 29, 2025

"And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." – 1Peter 2:4-5



"*" = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship - 1Peter 2:9; Malachi 2:1-5

Leader: But you (Christians) are a chosen race, a <u>royal priesthoo</u>d, a holy nation, a people

for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light . . . And now this

commandment is for you, O priests.

People: If you do not listen, and if you do not take it to heart to give honor to

My name,

Leader: Says the LORD of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your

blessings; and indeed, I have cursed them already (Referring to the corrupt priests

during the time of Malachi, and maybe many Christians today?),

People: Because you are not taking it to heart.

Leader: Behold, I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will spread refuse on your faces,

the refuse of your feasts;

People: And you will be taken away with it.

Leader: Then you will know that I have sent this commandment to you, that My covenant

may continue with Levi (and now all Christians?),

People: Says the LORD of hosts.

Leader: My covenant with him was one of life and peace,

People: And I gave them to him as an object of reverence;

Leader: So he revered Me

People: And stood in awe of My name.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession Gospel Absolution Text – Revelation 1:5-6

*Hymn #116 – "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Scripture Reading – Leviticus 7:28-36; Leviticus 10:1–15 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 #51A – "God, Be Merciful to Me" (see below)

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 – Cambridge Platform, 2.6.

Leader: A Congregational-church is by the institution of Christ 1Cor 14:28,36 1Cor 1:2; 12:27

a part of the Militant-visible-church,

People: Consisting of a company of Saints by calling, Ex 19:5-6 Leader: *United into one body by a holy covenant,*

Deut 29:1,9-15 For the public worship of God, People: Acts 2:42 Leader: And the mutual edification of one another, 1Cor 14:26

In the Fellowship of the Lord Jesus. People:

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

*Sermon Text - 1Samuel 2:12-17

*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 – "Spiritual Sacrifices"

(A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8)

*Benediction

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements

- For July & August Lord's Day Worship starts at 9:30 PM. There will be no Sunday School, however, there will be fellowship afterwards.
- Pastor Doug will be on vacation from July 14 through August 4.
- The **Deacon's Fund** is low, additional contributions would be helpful.

Upcoming Events

• Tuesday & Wednesday Studies are done for the summer.

^{*}Hymn #460 – "Amazing Grace"

• **Pool Party/Picnic** to be held on **Saturday**, **July 19**th 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

Sunday 9:00 – 10:00 AM **Sunday School** [*Returns in September*]

9:30 - c.10:40 AM Worship (Lord's Supper on the 1st Sunday of the month)

c.10:40 AM Coffee Hour Fellowship

Tuesday 10:30 AM – Noon Tuesday Study [Returns in September]

Wednesday 6:30 – 8:30 PM Wednesday Study [Returns in September]

Gen Alpha Club [Returns in September]

Friday 6:30 - ??? PM Young Adult Discussion Group at Pastor Doug's house

(1st & 3rd Fridays)

Saturday 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/@TrinityReformedCTPastor Doug'syoutube.com/simplyreformedYoutube 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 2:12-17 "Spiritual Sacrifices" A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8 June 29, 2025

Introduction - 1Samuel 2:12-17

- 1) We are at the end of the time of the Judges in the Old Testament.
 - a) It is a time of increased immorality and lawlessness.

Judg 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25

- b) Judges 21:25 "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eves."
- 2) God's (portable) House, the Tabernacle, where He dwells with His people in a special unique way, is at Shiloh, up in the northern part of Israel.

Josh18:1; Judg 18:31 1Sam 1:3,24-28; 3:21; 4:3-4 Jer 7:12-14

3) The Lord commands that his priest, taken solely from the tribe of Levi, will minister to Himself at His house.

Ex 28:1; Lev10:6-7,11; Num 1:47-53 Num 3:6-10; 18:1-7; Deut 10:8 Deut 18:1-5; Josh 3:3; 1Chr 23:13

4) Eli is the high priest at the beginning of 1Samuel.

1Sam 1:3ff

a) Normally, the OT high priesthood is a hereditary position.

Num 18:7; 1Sam 2:27-36

b) Eli's sons (Hophni & Phinehas) are priests too, with the eldest to become the new high priest.

1Sam 1:3; 2:12-17,22-36 1Sam 3:12-4:22

- 5) Eli's sons, however, are "were worthless men." 1Samuel 2:12b
 - a) Literally, "sons of Belial", sons of the devil.

2Cor 6:15

- b) They do "not know the LORD and the custom of the priests with the people." 1Sam2:12c-13
- 6) The key aspect of Old Testament (OT) worship is giving sacrifices unto the Lord.

Gen 4:3-4; Lev 1:1-17; 7:11-21; 16:3-22; Num 15:1-10 Deut 12:5-7; 1Sam 1:24-28; 2Sam 24:18-25 1Kgs 8:62-64; Ezra 6:16-18; Mali 1:6-14

a) The people would bring the correct offering to the priests who would offer it unto the Lord, which some of it being burned.

Lev 6:8-13; 7:1-1; 9:12-14 1Kgs 8:64; 2Chrs 29:21-24

Num18:8-19; 18:21-24; Deut 10:9; 18:1-5

b) Since the Levites, and the priests, could not own land, they would keep some of the offering as a way of sustaining themselves and their families.

Neh 10:37-39 Lev 3:16-17; 7:23-25; 17:6-7

1Sam 2:12-17,27-36; 2Chr 31:4-6

c) The fat of animals was viewed as particularly important, the best of the offering and thus special.

Lev 21:21-22; Ezek 44:15-16 Lev 3:1-17; 7:28-36; 10:1-15

Lev 1:1-9; 3:1-5; 4:27-31

7) The priestly practices at Shiloh differ from what is commanded in the Law, however.

Num 18:18; Deut 18:3

- a) As we read in 1Samuel 2:14 "Thus they did in Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there."
- b) To what extent this freedom is tolerable is debatable.
- c) Though remember, this is the corrupt time of the judges, this sloppy approach to worship is probably not a good thing.
- 8) Clearly from verse 15 on this is a corrupt practice, as we read in verses 15-16.
- 9) In the bigger picture this is God removing the line of Eli and establishing the godly line of Zadok but that is for another sermon.
- 10) Today, let us ponder the sins of Eli's two sons and what we should do to avoid them.

The Sins of Hophni & Phinehas

- 1) What are the sins of Hophni and Phinehas?
 - a) They are godless men worthless sons of the devil, who do not know God.

1Sam 2:12 2Cor 6:15

i) This is violating the 1st Commandment, the most important, the greatest Commandment.

Matt 22:36-37

- ii) #1 "You shall have no other gods before Me." Exodus 20:3
- b) They did not know the custom of the priests with the people.

1Sam 2:13

- i) This is violating the 5th Commandment.
- ii) #5 "Honor your father and your mother" Exodus 20:12
 - This is the first commandment of the "Second Table" of the Law. The ones that deal with loving our neighbor.

Matt 7:12 Matt 22:39

- From this commandment comes respect for all authority. 1
- That is why it is the first commandment with a promise: "that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you." Ex 20:12b
- c) They were greedy and willing to engage in violence for their selfishness. ["No, but you shall give it to me now; and if not, I will take it by force."]

1Sam 2:16

- i) This is violating the 6th, 8th, and 10th Commandments.
- ii) #6 "You shall not murder." Exodus 20:13 Which includes all unlawful use of violence.

Lev 19:17; Prov 14:30; Matt. 5:22 Rom 12:19; Eph 4:31; 1John 3:15

- iii) #8 "You shall not steal." Exodus 20:15
- iv) #10 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house... or anything that belongs to your neighbor." Exodus 20:17
- d) They would fornicate with "the women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting". 1Sam 2:22

Ex 38:8

- i) This is violating the 7^{th} and 10^{th} Commandments.
- ii) #7 "You shall not commit adultery." Exodus 20:14 Which covers all sexual sin.

Matt 5:27-28

James 1:14-15

- iii) #10 "You shall not covet... your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant" Exodus 20:17
- e) They refuse to take godly correction from their father (1Sam 2:25) and thus directly violate the 5^{th} commandment.
- 2) The author of 1Samuel (Samuel?) tells us the main problem with Hophni & Phinehas:
 - a) 1Samuel 2:17 "Thus the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men despised the offering of the LORD."
 - b) Note the real problem with sin: It is an offense against God.
 - c) Sins are actions & thoughts that are contrary to God's Law (His revealed Will) that stem from a fallen inner man (i.e. heart) because we are in these corrupt bodies of death.

Matt 5:21ff; 7:11; Mark 7:20-23 Rom 3:10ff; 7:24; 1Cor15:42-44

1Cor 53-54; Eph 2:1-3; 1John 3:4

Westminster Larger Catechism, Q#124, asks: "Who are meant by father and mother in the fifth commandment?" The answer is: "By father and mother, in the fifth commandment, are meant, not only natural parents, (Prov 23:22,25; Eph 6:1-2) but all superiors in age (1Tim 5:1-2) and gifts; (Gen 4:20-22; 45:8) and especially such as, by God's ordinance, are over us in place of authority, whether in family, (2Kgs 5:13) church, (2Kgs 2:12; 13:14; Gal 4:19) or commonwealth. (Is 49:23)

- d) Here, Hophni & Phinehas, are defiling the worship of God, which is grave sin, and are violating Commandments #2, #3 & #4.
 - i) #2 "You shall not make for yourself an idol". Exodus 20:4
 - Idolatry is not just worshipping a physical idol.
 - Idolatry also includes to engage in false, and/or corrupted worship, is idolatry.

Num 15:39; Deut 12:30-32; 13:6-8; 32:46-47 Hos 5:11; Micah 6:16; 1Kgs 11:33; 12:33 Matt 28:20; Acts 2:42, 1Tim 6:13-14

• The focus on the self and the flesh's worldly desires is also idolatry.

Col 3:5 1Pet 4:3

- ii) #3 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain". Exodus 20:7
 - This commandment forbids so much more than simply saying "Jesus" or "Christ" as a swear which is a grave sin too!
 - To use God's name in unbiblical worship, is to take God's name in vain.

Deut 28:58; Ps 29:2; 68:4; 138:2 Eccl 5:1; Mal 1:14; Matt 6:9 1Cor 11:24-25,28-29; Rev 15:3-4

- iii) #4 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy". Exodus 20:8
 - Much of the priest's worship labors happened on the Sabbath, thus to lead corrupt worship on the sabbath is a direct violation of this commandment.

Gen 2:2-3; Lev 23:3 Ex 16:23; 20:8-10; 31:13 Num 28:9-10; Is 58:13-14 Ezek 46:1-3

 To find our ultimate rest in someone besides the Lord our God, including in trusting in our self, is a grave sin. Ps 78:22; Jer 17:5; Is 31:1; Hos 14:3 Ps 62:5-6; Matt 11:28-29; Rom 6:16

Heb 4:9-10

3) These are clearly terrible ministers of the Lord.

New Testament Application

- 1) Obviously, there are higher standards for those who lead worship, i.e. ministers in the narrow sense.
 - a) The NT gives clear moral guidelines for ministers.

1Tim 3:1-7; Titus 3:6-9

- b) James 3:1 "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment."
- c) The NT gives guidelines on how to deal with ministers who sin.

1Tim 5:17,19-20 Gal 2:14; Eph 5:11

- 2) However, is the zeal, the exactitude of worship, that is found throughout the Old Testament, does it no longer apply in the New Covenant?
 - a) Liberal and Evangelical Protestantism, especially modern Pop-Evangelicalism clearly believe we can be a total libertine, when it comes to worship.
 - i) The ends justify the means: Entertainment and business strategies should govern worship, not the Word of God, because the critical thing for worship is amusing the unbeliever.
 - ii) As long as it is successful in bringing in the numbers then it must be "blessed by God", especially if it is bringing in that all important demographic: Young upwardly mobile families.
 - iii) We call this "The Idolatry of Numbers."

- b) This is a direct violation of our Reformed Tradition, the Ten Commandments (which still very much apply in the New Covenant!) and the guidelines for worship that the New Testament clearly gives.
- 3) One of the key doctrines of the Reformed Tradition is what is called the: **Regulative Principle of Worship**.
 - a) Our forebears were called "*Reformed*" and "*Puritans*" because their first desire was to "*reform*" and "*purify*" worship because the correct worship of God is the most important thing! (See Commandments 1-4.)
 - i) That is why the Pilgrims, and later the Puritans, came to New England.
 - ii) See John Calvin's great book on this: The Necessity of Reforming the Church.
 - b) The **Regulative Principle of Worship**, simply put, is:

Whatever is not commanded is forbidden.

c) This is different from the **Normative Principle of Worship**, held by "high church" Protestants, like Lutherans and Anglicans, which teaches:

Whatever is not forbidden is allowed.

- d) The Regulative approach is much more conservative.
 - i) So, things like organs, choirs, clerical collars, stain-glass windows, crosses, decorated churches, Ash Wednesday, Christmas, Easter, etc. will be forbidden in Puritan/Reformed countries.
 - ii) What does the stereotypical old Congregational church look like? The beautiful plan white meeting house.
- e) In pastor Doug's opinion the Regulative Principle is implied in Scripture² and as a general guideline, is very helpful on what you should focus on.
 - i) For example: If you love the celebration of Christmas so much that it is a standard by which you judge a church you have an idol.
 - ii) However, you can take the Regulative Principle too far, such as the English Puritan's uneasiness with using the Apostles and Nicene Creeds in worship (though they believed in its teachings), unlike the continental Reformers who thought their use was necessary.
- 4) It is true, there is much freedom in NT worship.
 - a) The Ceremonial Laws, with all its sacrifices and rituals, have been done away with, fulfilled in Christ.

Matt 5:17; Rom10:4; Gal 3:24-25 Col 2:16-17; Heb 8:13; 10:1-18

- b) Christ is both the perfect sacrifice and perfect High Priest.³
- c) And we no longer have priests, since all Christians are now priests.

Ex 19:6; Rom 12:1; 1Cor 6:19-20 Heb 10:19-22; 1Pet2:5; 2:9; Rev 1:6; 5:10

d) To think the NT just gives total license to do anything we want is crazy.

² Ex 20:4-5; Lev 10:1-2; Deut 12:29-32; 1Sam 15:22; 2Kgs 16:10; Matt 15:9; John 4:24; Acts 17:25; Col 2:20-23; Rev 22:18-19.

³ John 1:29; Rom3:24-25; 1Cor 5:7; 2Cor5:21; Eph 5:2; Heb 2:17; 4:14-15; 7:26-27; 9:11-14; 10:11-14,17; 1Pet 1:18-19; 2:24; 1John 2:1-2; Rev 5:9-10.

New Testament Gifts, Sacrifices & Offerings

 The focus of New Testament worship is on what Christ, and His Gospel, have done. Matt 26:28; John 4:24; Rom 5:1-2; 8:1 1Cor 11:23-26; Heb 7:27; 9:12-14; 10:10-14 1Pet 1:18-19; Rev 5:9-10

- a) To give one example: Hebrews 9:8-12 "The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing (OT worship), which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly, both gifts (dōron) and sacrifices (thysia) are offered (prospheromai) which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience, since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation (the New Covenant). But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption."
- b) Do you hear what we have been reading in 1Samuel? This is why studying the OT is so important.
- 2) But what and where should our zeal as Christians be?
 - a) Probably the best place to turn is to 1Peter 2.
 - i) 1Peter 2:5 "you (Christians) also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual (pneumatikos) house for a holy priesthood, to offer up <u>spiritual</u> (pneumatikos) <u>sacrifices</u> (thysia) acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."
 - ii) 1Peter 2:9 "But you (Christians) are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"
 - b) Do you hear the OT worship/priest language in these texts?
 - c) Do you hear the central role of Christ?

 ["through Jesus Christ", "of Him", "into His marvelous light"]
- 3) What does "spiritual sacrifices" and "proclaiming the excellencies of Him" mean? How do we, Christians, act like royal priests, especially with regards to worship?
- 4) If you do a study of the words "spiritual", "gift", "sacrifices" and "offering" from Hebrew 9:8-12, you can clearly see a pattern.
 - Again, first and foremost, it is Christ's gift/sacrifice/offering of Himself that is the central point.
 - i) Ephesians 1:3-4 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him"
 - ii) Because salvation, redemption, is solely a gift from God.

Eph 2:8

iii) We are to give our lives unto Christ.

Luke 21:1-9

iv) Faith is the key thing when giving unto God.

Heb 11:4

- b) So, there is an individual component to New Covenant sacrifices and offerings.
 - i) Holiness, and godly living, as taught by the word, is critical.

	ii) Compassion is greater than ritual, though this doesn't nullify godly rituals! iii) To walk in love is a beautiful offering & sacrifice.		Ps 51:15-19 Matt 9:13; 12:7 Eph 5:2
	 Careful-this love is not sentimentality individualism and the standards or 		Matt 13:3-9,18-23 Rom 12:2; 1John 2:15
	 This love is to will the others good (our neighbor) according to God's very continuous. 		Matt 22:36-40 1Cor 13:4-8
c) There are many references that focus on the church as the foundation of spiritual offering.			
i)	First be reconciled with your fellow Chris giving your offering.	stian before	Matt 5:23-24
ii)	ii) Submitting to church authority.		Matt 8:4; 1Cor 14:37
iii)	iii) To sacrifice for the church is a great offering.		Phil 2:17
iv)	iv) Supporting the church and its Gospel proclamation.		Rom 15:16
v)	v) Giving to churches in need.		Rom 15:26-27
vi)	vi) A godly church is an acceptable sacrifice and well pleasing to God. (Do we ever think collectively like this?)		Phil 4:18
vii) Praising God and doing good, within the church, under her leaders, Heb 13:15-1 is a good thing.			S, Heb 13:15-17
d) If there is a particular focus, not surprisingly, it is on the ministry of the Word. Acts 6:4			
i)	Proclaiming the fullness of Gospel to the church.		Rom 1:11-12,15
ii)	God's Law, correctly taught.		Rom 7:14
iii)	iii) Solid doctrine that produces unity and love in the church.		1Cor 2:10-3:3
iv)	iv) Knowledge of God's will, with wisdom & understanding.		Col 1:9
v)	v) The sacraments.		1Cor 10:2-4
vi)	vi) Singing in church.		Eph 5:19; Col 3:16
vii) That various gifts that build up the church. Especially proclaiming God's Word.		1Cor 12:1ff 1Cor 14:1	
viii) Those who wisely correct a brother who sins in the church.		Gal 6:1	
Conclusion			
the same zeal for worship as Prov 1:7; Eccl 1		0:12; Ps 2:11; 5:7; 89:7 :13; Is 8:13; Mal 1:6-14 4:23-24; Heb 12:28-29	
2) The zeal is placed not in the "shadow and figures" of OT rituals which have been fulfilled in Christ, but now in the ministry of the Word. Jer 31:31-34; Luke 24:27 Acts 2:42; Rom 10:17; 2 Eph 4:11-12; Heb 1:1-2		Cor 3:6-11; Gal 3:24-25	

4) Please, note, with the greatly clarity of Christ comes higher standards, for there are sorer judgments for those who have received such clarity, and such mercy, and turn their backs on Him.

3) We do have great freedom in Christ

with the clarity of His Gospel.

Heb 2:1-4; 3:7-4:13 Heb 5:11-6:12; 12:14-29 Heb 10:19-39

John 8:31-36; Rom 6:14-18; 8:1-2; 1Cor 9:19

2Cor 3:17; Gal 2:4; Gal 5:1,13; Col 2:16-17; James 1:25