

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

August 31, 2025



trinityreformedct.org

"And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." – Hebrews 6:11-12

"✙" = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Psalm 95:1-6

Leader: *O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord,*
People: **Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.**
Leader: *Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,*
People: **Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.**
Leader: *For the Lord is a great God*
People: **And a great King above all gods,**
Leader: *In whose hand are the depths of the earth,*
People: **The peaks of the mountains are His also.**
Leader: *The sea is His, for it was He who made it,*
People: **And His hands formed the dry land.**
Leader: *Come, let us worship and bow down,*
People: **Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Colossians 2:2-3

***Hymn #342** – *"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"*

Scripture Reading – Hebrews 9:18-10:21

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 #122A** – *"I Was Filled with Joy and Gladness"*

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, 76.

Leader: *What is repentance unto life?*

People: **It is a saving grace,** 2Tim 2:25

Leader: *Wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit* Zech 12:10

People: **And word of God,** Acts 11:18,20-21

Leader: *Whereby, out of the sight and sense,
not only of the danger,* Ezek 18:28,30,32
Luke 15:17-18; Hos 2:6-7

People: **But also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins,** Ezek 36:31; Is 30:22

Leader: *And upon the apprehension of God's mercy in Christ
to such as are penitent,* Joel 2:12-13

People: **He so grieves for and hates his sins,** Jer 31:18-19; 2Cor 7:11

Leader: *As that he turns from them all to God, purposing and
endeavouring constantly to walk with Him* Acts 26:18; Ezek 14:6
1Kgs 8:47-48; Ps 119:6,59,128

People: **In all the ways of new obedience.** Luke 1:6; 2Kgs 23:25

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Hebrews 10:22-25

***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 – “Maturity in Hebrews”

A Topical Mini-Sermon Series on Maturity

***Hymn #252** – “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

***Benediction** – Jude 24-25

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- Starting next Sunday, September 7th, we will be back to our normal schedule:

9:00-10:00 AM Sunday School for all ages

10:30 AM **Lord's Day Worship**

c.11:45 AM Fellowship Time

- Studies returning on:

Sunday School for all ages (9:00 AM) starts on September on 7th.

Tuesday Study (10:30 AM – noon) starts on September 9th.

Wednesday Study (6:30 – 8:00 PM) starts on September 10th.

We will be studying the Book of Hebrews.

Gen-Alpha Club will return on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

Friday YADG (6:30 PM) still meets on 1st & 3rd Friday.

Saturday Morning Prayer Group at the Gabelmann's. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

- On Saturday, **September 13th**, from **noon** to 5:00 PM, there will be a **church picnic** at the Winter's house. (1448 Burt Hill Rd; Tolland, MA 01034).
- The next **Elder & Deacon Meeting** will be at the Aldrich's on Saturday, **Sept. 27th** at **8:30 AM**.
- On Saturday, **October 18th**, starting at 11:30 AM, will be an **Oktoberfest** at the Aldrich's! With choice of select root-beers (we are Calvinists after all). There will be a sign up for whatever German food you would like to bring.
- The *tentative* date for the **Annual Calvinist-Christmas Party** is Friday, **December 5th**, at the Grange.

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, Vika Winters	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 10:22-25

“Maturity in Hebrews”

A Topical Mini-Sermon Series on Maturity

August 31, 2025

Introduction

- 1) We have been doing a mini-topical sermon series on maturity.
- 2) Arguably, the two most important books in the New Testament to read about maturity, and which require maturity to read, are Romans & Hebrews.
 - a) Romans is the most detailed description of the Gospel in the Bible.
 - b) Hebrews is the most detailed Christological (i.e. the study of Christ) book in the Bible.
 - c) Though the Gospel of John could rival both.

3) The last three weeks we have been looking at Hebrews 5:12; 6:1-2

a) Starting with the most basic thing, the **ABCs** of the faith: God has spoken, in an objective and clear way in His Son, Jesus Christ as found in Scripture. Heb 5:12

b) Then going on to the **basic lessons** of being put in Christ: From repentance, to faith, to baptism, to being put in Christ's church, leading to the resurrection and finally eternal judgment. Heb 6:1-2

4) The author of Hebrews promises in Heb 6:3 that he wants to focus on the more mature things, he writes: *"And this we will do, if God permits."* – Hebrews 6:3

a) As we talked about last week, the author first gives a fierce warning about those who (apparently) start in Christ, and turn away, there is no hope for them. Heb 6:4-8

b) These warnings are found throughout in Hebrews.
(See: Heb 2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:20; 10:19-39; 12:25-29)

c) The focus is clear: Christ or death. John 11:25-26; 14:6; Acts 4:12

5) But what does maturity look like?

6) If I asked you: How would you encourage a Christian to be more mature, how would you answer?

a) Most modern Christians would focus on an individual "to do" list.

i) Pray more, be a better person, tell more people about Jesus, try to defeat a particular besetting sin, be more joyful, help the poor, etc.

ii) Read the Bible more, go to a Bible study, think more systematically about the Bible, study church history and doctrine, etc.

b) Those are good things! All good works! We should strive to do them.

c) However, that is not the focus of Hebrews, or Romans, or much of the Bible.

7) To get the author's overview of this in the next section.

a) Hebrews 6:9-12 – *"But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way. For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."*

i) Maturity is based on salvation in Christ.

ii) Maturity is about good works based in biblical, Christ-centered, love.

iii) Maturity focuses first on the church.

iv) Maturity is about assurance so that we will not be sluggish.

b) Maturity is not a list of things to do.

i) Maturity is about having the correct foundation.

ii) And from that foundation will naturally come good works.

c) To give a simplistic analogy:

i) Telling a young boy to treat girls like ladies is difficult. (It is all law. The law is good but a burden, though some good will come of it.)

- ii) The law becomes sweet, when directed toward the beloved, when the young man first falls in love with a young lady. Yes, there are rules to learn and do, however, they are sweet because of the change on the inside.
 - iii) The change of heart is the “secret” of maturity.
- 8) That is why Hebrews doesn’t focus on a “to do list” but on Christ.
 - a) You see this in the next long section of the book.
 - i) From Hebrews 5:11 through chapter 10, the author explains Christ’s priesthood in detail.
 - ii) Remember the audience of this book was Jewish Christians. They really know their Old Testament.
 - b) The pattern of this book/sermon is to focus on Christ:

1:5-2:18	The Son is superior to the angels.
3:1-5:10	The Son is the faithful & merciful High Priest.
5:11-10:30	Christ's priesthood explained.
11:1-12:13	Faith in, and through, Christ.
12:14-13:25	The Straight Paths are in Christ.

Faithful Assurance – Hebrews 10:22

- 1) Because of Christ we are to draw near to God.
 - a) And God is only found in Christ’s spiritual body on earth, the church.
 - b) And the church’s first labor is to worship God in Christ.
- 2) We are to do this with a "sincere/true" heart.
 - a) Remember the biblical concept of the “heart” is not opposed to the mind.
 - b) "Heart" is the whole inner being (mind, will, soul, spirit, emotions, etc.)
- 3) The first virtue of the heart is faith.
 - a) Saving faith is to intellectually know about Christ, to agree with who He is, and daily willfully trust in Him.
 - b) Always remember our faith is in the Triune God, not faith in our faith.
 - c) Biblical faith will always give us hope, and will cause us to do the most important work: Love.
- 4) You can have true saving faith and not have full assurance, however, that is very immature.
- 5) Mature faith has “full assurance.”
 - a) Mature faith, in this life, can still have questions.
 - b) Mature faith doesn’t mean there will be no struggles in this life.
 - c) Mature faith, however, trusts completely in Christ.
 - i) Like the faithful centurion in Matthew 8:5ff & Luke 7:1ff.
 - ii) The Lord Jesus offered to go to the centurion’s house to heal his servant.
 - iii) The centurion responded that he was not worthy to have Christ come into his house, and all he needed was Christ’s word.
 - iv) And that faith astonished Christ!

6) How do you get this mature faith?

- a) As in the story of the faithful centurion, and in our Hebrews text: Know the problem.
- b) And not just intellectually but in our hearts: That we are sinners with no hope in ourselves.
- c) If you know that, by God's grace, you have only one place to go: Christ!
- d) Thus, our hope is only in Him.
Hebrews 10:22b – *"having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."*
- e) And He has cleansed us from the inside, giving us a new heart, regenerating us – making us born again.
- f) And this new life is proclaimed to us in baptism, being brought into Christ's church.

7) From this will come the mature confession.

The Confession – Hebrews 10:23

- 1) The basis of maturity is to *"hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering."* – Heb 10:23
- 2) The basic, most simple, confession is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Lord.
 - a) We see this in Hebrews. Heb 3:1; 4:13; (2Cor 9:13; 1Tim 6:12-13)
 - b) At the very beginning: *"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."* – Hebrews 1:1-2
 - c) And at the very end: *"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."* – Heb 13:20-21
 - d) This is the ABCs that God has spoken through His Son and told us He is our Lord.
Luke 9:35 – *"Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!'"*
- 3) From the ABCs we go to the basic lessons of what is found in Hebrews 6:1-2.
 - a) Being put in Christ by: Repentance, Faith, Baptism, Being in the Church, Resurrection, and Eternal Judgment.
 - b) What is the more mature confession?
 - i) Explaining the details of those things is important.
 - The Bible teaches a lot about all those things.
 - Our great Reformed Confessions (Savoy, Westminster, Heidelberg, etc.) are a great place to start for a summary.
 - ii) The focus of Hebrews, however, is not just systematic doctrine.
(Though that is important!)
 - iii) The mature confession produces *"hope without wavering."* – Heb 10:23
- 4) Biblical "hope" is not like the modern sense of the word of wishful thinking.
(e.g. "I hope it works out . . .")
 - a) Hope is the assurance, the belief in a good future outcome. Rom 8:24-25; Heb 11:1; 1Pet 1:3
 - b) I love the 1828 Webster's definition of "hope" in the general sense:
 - i) Hope is a desire of some good, accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it (e.g. in the worldly sense), or a belief that it is obtainable (e.g. biblical hope).

- ii) Hope differs from wish and desire in this, that it implies some expectation of obtaining the good desired, or the possibility of possessing it.
- iii) Hope therefore always gives pleasure or joy;
- iv) Whereas wish and desire may produce or be accompanied with pain and anxiety.
- c) 1828 Webster's definition of "hope" in the biblical sense is : "Confidence in a future event; the highest degree of well-founded expectation of good; as a hope founded on God's gracious promises; a scriptural sense.
- d) How do we have this hope that is without wavering, unswerving?
 - i) Hebrews 10:23 – *"for He who promised is faithful."*
 - ii) How do we know God is faithful?
 - Because our heart has been turned from self, sin, Satan, and the world to Christ.
 - We have been given faith in Christ.
 - We have been baptized.
 - We have been brought into Christ's church.
 - We will be resurrected because He has been resurrected.
 - And the eternal judgment in Him is everlasting life.
 - iii) How do we know these basic lessons?
 - iv) The ABCs = God has spoken in His Son.

The Mature Confession – Hebrews 10:24-25

- 1) This public and private confession will bring maturity.
 - a) But what should we do?!
 - b) Keep on reading: *"and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."* – Hebrews 10:24-25
- 2) Note again the focus: Inside Christ's church.
 - a) You cannot be a mature Christian and be on the fringe of the church.
 - b) You are not a Christian if you forsake Christ's spiritual body on earth, i.e. the church.
 - i) You might have great intellectual knowledge of systematic theology.
 - ii) You might spend hours each week helping the poor.
 - iii) Again, those things are good, within Christ's church.
 - iv) Outside of Christ they are filthy rags.
 - c) You cannot claim to trust in Christ and reject His spiritual body on earth.
- 3) We hear the language of and it gives us the warm fuzzies.
 - a) Generic vague theoretical talk about love is cheap, loving people that are really in your life is hard.
 - i) Getting the warm-fuzzies from a good rom-com is fun but shallow.
 - ii) Actually, loving your spouse, throughout the years, is hard, but godly.
 - b) Question: Who is the "one another" we are to first love and do good deeds to?
 - i) Answer: Fellow Christians, especially those around us in the local church.

- ii) Yes, we are to love all Christians, and our neighbor, and even our enemies, however, the focus is clearly on the local church.
 - iii) That is what “laying on of hands” is all about.
- c) You don’t think it is about church?
- i) What is the very next part of the verse?
 - Heb 10:25a – *“not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some”*
 - The “assembling together” is not a theoretical gathering vaguely related to the universal church.
 - The word is “*episynagōgē*”:
 “*Epi*” (upon/together) + “*synagōgē*” (gathering/assembly)
 - It is literally: “Together Assembling”
 - That is the local church not some theoretical thing.
 - ii) Read Hebrews 12:22-24 about what Christ’s church really is: *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.”*
- 4) How about the most famous, and one of the most misread passages, in Scripture.
- a) Paul’s famous definition of love.
 - b) Which is not primarily about marriage.
 (Though godly love is the basis for a good marriage!)
 - c) It is about the church. (Read the chapters around it – Chapters 12 & 14.)
 - d) 1Corinthians 13:1-8a – *“If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails . . .”*
- 5) Within the church the most important thing we do is worship God on the Lord’s Day.
- a) That encourages each of us more than anything, besides obeying the most important commandment.
 - b) But this encouragement is more than activities together (which are good) but it is that fellowship together, that is where the maturity lies.
 - c) Why, because *“the day (is) drawing near.”*
 - i) For each of us individually.
 - ii) And for all of creation when our Lord returns. Heb 9:27-28; 10:27,31; 12:25-29
 - d) Remember the last two things from our basic lessons: Resurrection and Eternal Judgment.