

# Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

September 14, 2025



[trinityreformedct.org](http://trinityreformedct.org)

*"But when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away." – 1Corinthians 13:10*

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“\*” = Please stand if you are able.

## Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

### Call to Worship – Revelation 3:11-13

*Leader: I (Jesus Christ) am coming quickly;*

**People: Hold fast what you have,**

*Leader: So that no one will take*

**People: Your crown.**

*Leader: He who overcomes,*

**People: I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God,**

*Leader: And he will not go out*

**People: From it anymore;**

*Leader: And I will write on him*

**People: The name of My God,**

*Leader: And the name of the city of My God,*

**People: The new Jerusalem,**

*Leader: Which comes down out of heaven from My God,*

**People: And My new name.**

*Leader: He who has an ear, let him hear*

**People: What the Spirit says to the churches.**

### Prayer of Invocation and Confession

### Gospel Absolution Text – Galatians 3:24-26

**\*Hymn #580** – “Lead On, O King Eternal”

### Scripture Reading – Colossians 2:6-3:2

### 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 #98B** – “To the Lord O Sing a New Song”

**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** – Belgic Confession, 25 - The Abolishing of the Ceremonial Law

*Leader: We believe that the ceremonies and symbols of the law*

**People: Ceased at the coming of Christ,**

*Leader: And that all the shadows are accomplished;*

**People: So that the use of them must be abolished among Christians;**

*Leader: Yet the truth and substance of them remain with us in Jesus Christ,*

**People: In whom they have their completion.**

*Leader: In the meantime we still use the testimonies taken out of the law and the prophets*

**People: To confirm us in the doctrine of the gospel,**

*Leader: And to regulate our life in all honorableness to the glory of God,*

**People: According to His will.**

**Ministry of the Word**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**\*Sermon Text** – 1Samuel 2:30-36

**\*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** – “Shadow & Substance”

A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8

**\*Hymn #181** – “We Come, O Christ, to You”

**\*Benediction** –

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*Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today*

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**Announcements**

- The church would like to thank the Winter’s for hosting the church picnic yesterday.

**Upcoming Events**

- *Studies & Gatherings:*

**Sunday School** for all ages (9:00 AM).

**Tuesday Study** (10:30 AM – noon) – Augustine’s Sermons.

**Wednesday Study** (6:30 – 8:00 PM) – Book of Hebrews.

**Gen-Alpha Club** will return on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays.

**Friday YADG** (6:30 PM) still meets on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday.

**Saturday Morning Prayer Group** at the Gabelmann’s. (Please call Sheryl to confirm if the

group is meeting that day, 860-309-7250.)

- The next **Elder & Deacon Meeting** will be at the Aldrich's on Saturday, **Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>** at **8:30 AM**.
- On Saturday, **October 18<sup>th</sup>**, 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 **Bolton Conference** is on **October 24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>** (Fri-Sat) at the Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church in Whitinsville, MA 01588. [newenglandreformedfellowship.org/2025-conference](http://newenglandreformedfellowship.org/2025-conference)
- The **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Calvinist-Christmas Party** is Friday, **December 5<sup>th</sup>**, at the Grange.
- The **Annual Meeting** will be after church on **December 14<sup>th</sup>**.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

<b>TRC's Webpage:</b>	TrinityReformedCT.org
<b>TRC's Facebook Page:</b>	<a href="https://facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/">facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/</a>
<b>TRC's Youtube Channel:</b>	<a href="https://youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT">youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT</a>
<b>Pastor Doug's</b>	<a href="https://youtube.com/simplyreformed">youtube.com/simplyreformed</a>
<b>Youtube Channels:</b>	<a href="https://youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder">youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder</a>

### INTERNET PRAYER CHAIN

If you have any prayer requests for our prayer chain, please email them to Donna Ensminger at: [trcnwprayer@gmail.com](mailto:trcnwprayer@gmail.com). (If you would like to join the Prayer Chain, also see Donna.)

### LEADERSHIP

<b>Elders:</b>	Rev. Douglas Aldrich, pastor	860-379-1147	<a href="mailto:douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net">douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net</a>
	Bob Ensminger	860-485-8738	<a href="mailto:robert.ensminger@arthurgRussell.com">robert.ensminger@arthurgRussell.com</a>
	Rich Gabelmann	860-605-7852	<a href="mailto:rgabelmann0415@gmail.com">rgabelmann0415@gmail.com</a>
	Rev. Jonathan Haulenbeek	203-709-0784	<a href="mailto:jhaulenbeek@icloud.com">jhaulenbeek@icloud.com</a>
<b>Deacons:</b>	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Verna Aldrich, Vika Winters	<b>Music Coordinator:</b>	Cindy Rines
<b>Clerk:</b>	Sheryl Gabelmann	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Cindy Rines

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### **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](http://trinityreformedct.org) – *Email:* [trinityreformedct@gmail.com](mailto:trinityreformedct@gmail.com)

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## Sermon Notes

1Samuel 2:30-36

"Shadow & Substance"

A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8

September 14, 2025

### Introduction

1) We are going through 1Samuel 1-8.

a) God is going to raise up the last judge, Samuel,  
who is also a great prophet and priest.

1Sam 2:35; 3:19-21; 7:15-17  
Ps 99:6; Jer 15:1; Acts 3:24

b) And Samuel will ordain the great OT King David.

1Sam 16:12ff

2) Remember we are at the very end of the time of the Judges.  
A dark and immoral period in Israel's history.

Judg 2:11-19; 17:6; 21:25  
1Sam 3:1; 1Sam 8:5

- 3) We have been reading about the High Priest Eli.
  - a) He seems to have many positive qualities (e.g. takes the worship of God seriously, encourages the godly Hannah, will educate Samuel, rebukes his evil sons, somewhat, who are corrupt priests).
 

1Sam 1:12-18  
 1Sam 1:25-28  
 1Sam 2:11,20  
 1Sam 3:1-9
  - b) Starting in 1Samuel 2:27ff a prophet, simply called “a man of God” harshly rebukes Eli for his corruption.
    - i) Eli has not been zealous in bringing justice to his wicked sons and thus, has not fully protected the worship of God.
    - ii) Eli’s household has materially profited from his sons’ wickedness.
- 4) Today’s sermon text continues this prophetic judgment against Eli and his house.

### **Judgment – 1Samuel 2:30-34**

- 1) The unnamed prophet, the “man of God” (v.27), speaking for God, states the fact that Eli, and his household were to walk before God “forever.” (v.30)
- 2) God promised that the line of Aaron, the first high priest of the Tabernacle, and his line would last “forever.”
 

Ex 28:43; 29:9  
Num 25:13

  - a) Exodus 28:43 – *“They shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they enter the tent of meeting, or when they approach the altar to minister in the holy place, so that they do not incur guilt and die. It shall be a statute forever to him and to his descendants after him.”*
  - b) Eli was a descendant of Ithamar, the fourth and youngest son of Aaron.
 

Ex 6:23
- 3) Because of Eli, and his sons’ sins, however, that promise is broken.
 

1Sam 2:12-17,22-25,29; 3:13

  - a) God declares, *“for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.”* – 1Samuel 2:30b
  - b) Eli’s house will be broken, none of his descendants will reach old age.
 

1Sam 2:31
  - c) While Israel, and Eli’s house have received many good things, God’s house, the Tabernacle has known distress, thus now Eli’s house will be cut off.
 

1Sam 2:32
- 4) Not all of Eli’s family will be immediately removed.
 

1Sam 2:33

  - a) Their service will continue for a while but be corrupted.
    - i) As a sign of judgment and ongoing sorrow.
    - ii) Adding grief and giving no hope.
    - iii) A fitting punishment that Eli did not fully rebuke his evil sons.
  - b) Eli’s line will be cut short generationally.
    - i) His descendants will not grow old; they will die young, leaving no lasting legacy.
    - ii) This creates a cycle of continual mourning rather than stability.
  - c) God is not promising mercy here but a prolonged, humiliating judgment.
    - i) Eli’s line won’t be erased in a single stroke; instead, they will linger in diminished form, suffering loss after loss.
    - ii) This judgment starts with Eli’s sons: *“This will be the sign to you which will come concerning your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas: on the same day both of them will die.”* – 1Samuel 2:34
  - d) This prophecy will be fulfilled in stages:
    - i) Eli’s sons will be killed in battle while the Ark is captured.
 

1Sam 4:11
    - This will cause the death of Eli.
 

1Sam 4:17-18

ii) Later, the line of Abiathar will be removed by King Solomon.

1Kgs 2:27

iii) Even the line of Aaron will cease.

Heb7:11-28; 8:13; 10:1-14

## **Hope – 1Samuel 2:35-36**

1) But there is hope – God will be glorified.

2) 1Samuel 2:35 – *“But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always.”*

a) Note the focus of hope: God glorifying Himself.

b) Eli, and his house, will be removed but a new (or rather old) house will be established.

c) Who is this new priest?

i) In the OT sense it is Zadok, the high priest in David and Solomon’s reigns, who was a descendant of Aaron through Eleazar, Aaron’s third son.

Num 20:25-28; 25:11-13

1Kgs 2:35; 1Chr 6:4-8

Ezek 40:46; 44:15

ii) Zadok’s line will go for hundreds of years.

iii) In OT prophecies always first try to hear the OT fulfillment

3) God’s judgment is against Eli’s house.

a) A few of Eli’s descendants will remain but they will not have honor or authority.

b) They will bow down before the new priestly house (Zadok).

1Kgs 2:27,35

c) These will become mere beggars.

## **Application – Judgment**

1) What are we to do with today’s sermon text?

2) God works covenantally and generationally.

a) Your actions affect those around you, including your children and your children’s children.

Ex 20:5-6; Deut 5:9-10; Ps 103:17-18

Prov 20:7; Jer 32:18-19; Gal 6:7-8

b) Yes, every person is responsible for their actions and will be judged by them.

Deut 24:16; Ezek 18:4,20; Matt 16:27

Rom 2:6-8; 2Cor 5:10; Rev 20:12-13

c) Yes, Eli, and his house, are in a special category. (An OT high priest whose cosmic purpose is to get to Christ.)

1Sam 2:27-36; 3:11-14

Heb 5:1-4; 7:11-28

d) This doesn’t negate that Christians should think covenantally and generationally.

3) No earthly institution in this world will last forever.

a) Nations, families, political/military/social/educational institutions will all pass.

b) Even those organizations of the visible church.

4) The **visible / invisible church** is an important theological distinction.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Westminster Confession of Faith defines “invisible” and “visible” church as:

25.1 – The catholic or **universal** Church, which is **invisible**, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all. (Eph 1:10, 22-23; 5:23,27,32; Col 1:18)

25.2 – The **visible** Church, which is also catholic or **universal** under the gospel (not confined to one nation as before under the law) consists of all those, throughout the world, that profess the true religion, (Ps 2:8; Rom 15:9-12; 1Cor 1:2; 12:12-13; Rev 7:9) and of their children; (Gen 3:15; 17:7; Ezek 16:20-21; Acts 2:39; Rom 11:16; 1Cor 7:14) and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, (Is 9:7; Matt 13:47) the house and family of God, (Eph 2:19; 3:15) out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation. (Acts 2:47)

- a) **Visible Church** – The outward, institutional church on earth, that we see, made up of all who profess Christ, together with their children. It includes both true believers and hypocrites (wheat and tares), since only God knows the heart.
  - b) **Invisible Church** – The true, spiritual body of Christ, consisting of all the elect in every age who are united to Christ by faith. This is “invisible” because its full membership is known only to God.
- 5) Even good church structures of the Visible Church will not last.
- a) This includes churches.
    - i) Remember the Lord’s warning to the church in Ephesus: *“Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand (to cease to be part of the invisible church) out of its place —unless you repent.”* – Revelation 2:5 Rev 1:20
    - ii) None of the seven churches of Revelation 2-3 exist today.
  - b) Or denominations: Roman Catholicism or our own Congregational Tradition.
  - c) Or educational, missionary, societal organizations: Harvard, Yale, Andover Theological Seminary, YMCA, the Gospel Coalition, etc.
- 6) Remember the lesson about Eli’s house, an organization that once was godly might continue in name, though it has become ungodly as a testimony of God’s judgment.
- a) To think you are a church but in reality, you are a Synagogue of Satan because God has withheld grace and caused the wicked to be deluded.<sup>2</sup>
  - b) This is a terrifying thing.
- 7) Are you saying institutions are bad?
- a) No! The Bible clearly doesn’t forbid things like seminaries, missionary organizations, Christian hospitals, etc. Many of which have done great good throughout the centuries.
  - b) The Bible explicitly commands Christians to be members of a local church which is led by elders who shepherd/pastor the saints.<sup>3</sup>

## **Application – Fulfillment**

- 1) That danger is loving a building or the organization more than Christ. Matt 23:27-28; Luke 11:44
  - a) This is one of the many reasons the New Covenant is so superior to the Old.
  - b) Far greater clarity.
  - c) The movement from the merely physical to the spiritual reality in Christ.
- 2) We see this in the fact that physical things of the Old Testament no longer exist.
  - a) Think of: the Law as a means of justification, circumcision, OT Passover, the nation of Israel (as the people of God), the land, the kingdom (in the geographic sense), the Levitical priesthood, the Tabernacle/Temple, the veil and all the things in the Temple, the OT holidays, including aspects of the Sabbath, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Ex 9:12; Is 6:9-10; Matt 25:11-12,41-46; John 8:44; Rom 1:24-28; 2Cor 11:13-15; 2Thes 2:10-12; Rev 2:9; 3:9.

<sup>3</sup> Matt 16:18; 18:17-18; Acts 2:41-42,47; 6:1-6; 11:22,26; 14:23; 20:17,28; Rom 12:4-8; 1Cor 5:4-5,12-13; 11:18; 12:12-31; Gal 6:6; Eph 2:19-22; 4:11-16; Phil 1:1; Col 1:18; 1Thes 5:12-13; 1Tim 3:1-13; 4:13-16; 5:17-20; 2Tim 2:2; Titus 1:5-9; Heb 10:24-25; 13:7,17; James 5:14; 1Pet 5:1-5; 3John 9-10.

b) But none of those exists today. Why?

i) Answer: 1Samuel 2:35 – *“But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always.”*

ii) Yes, that prophecy is fulfilled in a limited way by Zadok.

iii) However, prophesies in the Bible almost always have several layers of fulfillment, with the most important being about Christ.

iv) Since all of Scripture is about Him.

Luke 24:25-27,44-45; John 5:39

c) The true fulfillment of the prophecies of this text is, of course, in Christ.

3) That the OT structures and institutions are mere shadows of the reality we have in Christ is a critical teaching in the Bible. (To give three examples)

a) Colossians 2:16-17 - *“Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.”*

i) Here the Ceremonial Laws of the OT are described as “a mere shadow”.

ii) The substance, literally “*the body*”, the reality, belongs to Christ.

iii) “Food & drink” refer to the food laws of the OT which were required to keep one (ceremonially) clean and undefiled.

Lev 11:1-47; 17:10-16; 20:25

Gen 7:2; Deut 14:3-21

Mark 7:18-19; Acts 10:13-15

iv) The “festival” are the major OT “holidays”.

• I.e. Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, Feast of Weeks (Pentecost), Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah), Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) , Feast of Booths/Tabernacles, etc.

• They were memorials – so that God’s people will remember, fear and worship their God, and to teach their children.

Ex 13:8

Deut 16:12

v) The “new moon” refers to the OT monthly observance of the sacrifices and rituals marking the first day of each lunar month.

Num 28:11-15

1Chr 23:31

2Chr 31:3; Neh 10:33

vi) Finally, there is the Sabbath, the supreme holiday of rest.

vii) The vast majority of these are promised to last forever.

viii) That is only possible because they are fulfilled in Christ. (Worship, being made clean, and our rest, etc.)

b) Hebrews 8:4-6 – *“Now if He (Jesus Christ) were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, ‘See,’ He says, ‘that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.’ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.”*

i) One of the main jobs of Eli (through his priesthood, sacrifices/offerings, ministering at the tabernacle, etc.) is to be a go-between, between the people and God – as we saw with his dealings with the faithful Hannah.

ii) Obviously this doesn’t work out in the end, though it was by God’s grace for that OT time.

- iii) They point to a better, more perfect covenant because Christ is both the perfect High Priest and the perfect sacrifice.
  - iv) Also notice, it is to our advantage Christ is no longer physically on the earth because now we have received the special ministry of the Spirit.
  - v) Thus, *"Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;"* – Hebrews 9:23-24
- c) The promises to the OT are fulfilled in Christ and His church for they are but a shadow, form, and copy of the reality that is in Christ.
- Matt 5:17-20; Rom 14:5-9  
Gal 4:8-11; Col 2:16-19  
Heb 8-10  
(Heb 8:4-6; 9:23-24; 10:1)

## **Conclusion**

- 1) God is sovereign, the things He creates in this life He uses for His own glory.
- 2) Confession wonderfully puts it – Westminster Confession 2.2: "God has all life, (John 5:26) glory, (Acts 7:2) goodness, (Ps 119:68) blessedness, (Rom 9:5; 1Tim 6:15) in and of Himself; and is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which He hath made, (Acts 17:24-25) nor deriving any glory from them, (Job 22:2-3) but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them. He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things (Rom 11:36) and has most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever Himself please. (Dan 4:25,35; 1Tim 6:15; Rev 4:11) In His sight all things are open and manifest, (Heb 4:13) His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature, (Ps 147:5; Rom 11:33-34) so as nothing is to Him contingent, or uncertain. (Ezek 11:5; Acts 15:18) He is most holy in all His counsels, in all His works, and in all His commands. (Ps 145:17; Rom 7:12) To Him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience He is pleased to require of them. (Rev 5:12-14)"
- 3) All of creation is a blessing from God, including families throughout the generations.
  - a) All the organizations and structures within the visible church can be great blessings.
  - b) A local church in particular is a supreme blessing.
  - c) However, none of them are guaranteed to last forever.
  - d) Only the invisible church will remain and membership in her requires faith that will produce love.
- 4) All those "forever" promises in the OT are only fulfilled in Christ.
 

2Sam 7:12-16; Ps 89:3-4,28-37; Is 9:6-7  
Jer 33:14-17; Luke 1:31-33; 2Cor 1:20

  - a) Judgment can, and will, come upon all things, including those things of the visible church.
  - b) Let us pray God does not give over this church to the ways of the world and that we become a sign of His judgment.
  - c) Let us flee to Christ and rest in Him: *"Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."* – Matthew 11:26-30