

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for

November 9, 2025

"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire." – Hebrews 12:28-29



trinityreformedct.org

“✠” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Psalm 63:1-5 (KJV)

Leader: O God, Thou art my God;

People: Early will I seek Thee:

Leader: My soul thirsteth for Thee,

People: My flesh longeth for Thee

Leader: In a dry and thirsty land,

People: Where no water is;

Leader: To see Thy power and Thy glory,

People: So as I have seen Thee in the sanctuary.

Leader: Because thy lovingkindness is better than life,

People: My lips shall praise Thee.

Leader: Thus will I bless Thee while I live:

People: I will lift up my hands in Thy name.

Leader: My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness;

People: And my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Hebrews 10:10-18

***Hymn #226** – “As with Gladness Men of Old”

Scripture Reading – 1Peter 2:1-12

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 #56B** – “You Have Recorded All My Ways”

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 – Heidelberg Catechism, Q#43.

Leader: *What further benefit do we receive from the sacrifice and death of Christ on the cross?*

People: **That by virtue thereof, our old man is crucified, dead and buried with Him;**

Rom 6:6

Leader: *That so the corrupt inclinations of the flesh*

Rom 6:6-8,11,12

People: **May no more reign in us;**

Col 2:12

Leader: *But that we may offer ourselves unto Him*

Rom 12:1

People: **A sacrifice of thanksgiving.**

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – 1Samuel 6:1-12

***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 – “Offering”

A Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8

***Hymn #434** – “Lord, Thou Lov’st the Cheerful Giver”

***Benediction**

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements

- Starting on Wednesday, November 12th, there will be a **new Wednesday Study** going through the “Macedonia Epistles” (i.e. Philippians, 1 & 2Thessalonians).
- The next **Lady’s Study Luncheon** will be in **January**. The book is The Dawn of Redeeming Grace by Sinclair Ferguson (\$9.00) is in. If you are interested in the book please see Verna. There are extra copies available if you didn’t sign up.
- Tuesday (Nov 25th) and Wednesday (Nov 26th) **Studies during Thanksgiving week are canceled.**
- The **Deacon Fund** (i.e. support for church members in need) is running low, any new donations will be greatly appreciated.
- Dave & Janelle Franceschetti have set up a gofundme page to help with the medical costs for **baby Caleb’s** upcoming transplant surgery. You can go to: <https://gofund.me/95103c5b9>
Or search for: “Help Caleb and Family During Transplant”.

- **Operation Christmas Child (OCC)** gifts are due by Sunday, **Nov 16th**. Please return them to Mason, with a \$10 donation per shoebox, if able. OCC is a mission carried out by the Christian non-profit Samaritan's Purse. Through shoebox gifts, they give Christmas present and include a Gospel message to children in impoverished regions of the world. These shoeboxes can be packed with toys, school supplies, clothes, a personal letter, and more. If you are interested or have any question, please see Mason Goodell (goodellmas@gmail.com or 860-806-6437).

Upcoming Events

- Cindy Rines will be presenting a **piano recital** at her home (in West Hartland) on Saturday, **Nov 22 at 2:00 PM**. Space is limited so you are asked to please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall. There will be a time for snacks and fellowship following the recital. Pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin and various contemporary composers are included in the program.
- The **3rd Annual Calvinist-Christmas Party** is Friday, **December 5th**, at 6:30 PM, at the Grange.
- The **Annual Meeting** will be after church on **December 14th**.
- *Regular 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 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.)

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	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 6:1-12

"Offering"

Sermon Series on 1Samuel 1-8

November 9, 2025

Introduction

- 1) What offering do you have for the Lord today?
 - a) Do you not know that giving an offering is a critical part of worship?
 - b) What is the first biblical story after Adam is cast out of Eden? Gen 3:23-24
 - i) The story of Cain and Abel. Gen 4:1ff
 - ii) About a godly offering of faith and one without faith. Heb 11:4
 - c) There is a whole book in the Old Testament about the rules of offering: Leviticus.

Leviticus 1:1-2 – "Then the LORD called to Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, 'Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, When any man of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of animals from the herd or the flock.'"
 - d) This is not just an Old Testament thing.
 - e) We read in 1Peter 2:5 – *"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."*
- 2) We are in the time of the Judges – A time of moral decline in Israel. Judg 2:10-19; 17:6; 21:25
 - a) The evil Philistines have captured the Ark of God, 1Sam 4:3-11,17,21-22
His throne on earth. Ex 25:21-22; Num 7:89
 - b) God denigrates the Philistine idols and afflicts 1Sam 5:1-12
the Philistines with death and illness.

1Samuel 6:1-12

- 1) The Philistine pagan priests and diviners suggest that if the Ark of God is to be sent back, it be returned to God with a *"guilt offering."* – 1Samuel 6:3
 - a) The central aspect of worship in the ancient pagan Deut 12:29-32; Judg 2:11-13
world was offering. (Including Mesopotamian, 1Kgs 18:26-29; Ps 106:34-39
Canaanite, Philistine, Greek, Roman, etc.) Acts 14:11-13; Rom 1:21-23
 - i) Pagan offerings were about reparations and about feeding the gods.
 - They were a way of appeasing the deity to avoid the gods' anger or even to keep the gods from noticing you.
 - In particular the Mesopotamian gods were very capricious and chaotic. (Think H.P. Lovecraft.)
 - ii) Guilt Offerings were a ritual act to appease a deity after an offense or desecration.
- b) Pagan offerings were magical and transactional.
 - i) Basically, they were bargaining / buying off the deity.
 - ii) One's internal moral / spiritual state was unimportant.
 - iii) The ritual / payment was what was critical.
 - iv) It wasn't about moral atonement.
(To be made morally right with the deity.)

- v) Nor about being in covenant, so both deity and worshipper would know each other and be bound together.

- 2) The Philistines ask what should the guilt offering be? 1Sam 6:4
- a) The pagan priests answer with: 5 golden tumors & 5 golden mice.
- b) Why this?
- i) The number is explained because “five” represents the five lords of Philistines corresponding to the five most important cities of the Philistines. Josh 13:3
1Sam 6:17
(Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, Ekron)
- ii) Gold is one of the most precious things in the ancient world. Gen 2:11-12; Ex 25:11; 1Kgs 10:14-23
Job 28:1,15-19; Prov 3:14; Rev 21:18
- iii) Why tumors and mice/rodent? 1Sam 5:6,9,12; 6:5
- They represent and acknowledge God’s judgment.
 - That the Philistines have been struck with pestilence, tumors and death.
- c) The Philistine pagan priests then suggest the Philistines remember the Exodus. 1Sam 6:12
- i) The historical event in the Old Testament.
- ii) Why God, through Moses, led Israel out of slavery in Egypt.
- iii) Pharaoh, the king of the Egyptians, willfully hardened his heart against God, by God’s sovereign decree, and went back on his word to let God’s people go free.
- iv) This caused the destruction of the Egyptian army.
- 3) The pagan priests suggest that the Ark be taken back by: 1Sam 6:7-9
- a) A new cart pulled by two “milch” (i.e. nursing) cows that have never been yoked.
- b) The cows, calves are taken back home.
- c) The guilt offering of golden tumors & mice are put in a box next to the Ark.
- d) And they let the Ark, and the cows go without guidance, that it may find its own way.
- 4) What is going on here?
- a) That the cart and cows (i.e. never been yoked) are “new” is a gesture of dedication, respect and purity, to a deity, common in ancient rituals. Num 19:2
- b) The cows are nursing because they naturally resist leaving their calves.
- i) So, if these untrained cows, who are separated from their young, would by nature pull the cart back home to the Philistines.
- ii) The pagan priests state this will confirm why the Philistines are suffering.
- c) 1Samuel 6:9 – *“Watch, if it goes up by the way of its own territory to Beth-shemesh, then He has done us this great evil. But if not, then we will know that it was not His hand that struck us; it happened to us by chance.”*
- i) Beth-shemesh is the nearest Israelite town on the Israel/Philistine border. Josh 15:10
- ii) So, if the cart heads to Beth-shemesh it means God has caused “this great evil” the Philistines have been suffering.
- iii) If not, it means God didn’t cause the Philistine suffering, and it was “by chance.” (Remember, it is pagan priests speaking.)

5) The Philistines follow their pagan priest's advice.

1Sam 6:10-12

- a) 1Samuel 6:11a – *“And the cows took the straight way in the direction of Beth-shemesh; they went along the highway, lowing (mooing) as they went, and did not turn aside to the right or to the left.”*
- b) The Ark goes straight towards Israel.
- c) The cows are lowing because they are mooing for their calves, showing they are acting against their natural impulse.
- d) This is a miracle.
- e) God is glorifying Himself.

Offerings in the Old Testament

1) The central aspect of Old Covenant worship is offerings given by the people to be sacrificed by the priests.

Ex 29:38-42; Heb 5:1
Lev 1:1-9; 4:1-7; 6:1-7; 9:7

2) The OT offering system is complex and very detailed.

- a) For example, just in the chapters we have covered in this sermon series (1Samuel 1-8), the following types of offerings are mentioned:
 - i) **Peace/Fellowship Offerings** are mentioned in 1Samuel 1:3,4,21; 2:13,15,19; 6:15
 - ii) **Fire Offerings** (a general category that refers to any offering that uses fire: Whole Burnt, Grain, Peace/Fellowship, Sin, Guilt) in 1Samuel 2:28-29
 - iii) **“Offering”** can be used as a comprehensive term for all sacrificial offerings as found in 1Samuel 3:14.
 - iv) **Guilt Offerings** in 1Samuel 6:3-4,8,17.
 - v) **Burnt Offerings** in 1Samuel 6:14-15.
- b) If you are confused, don't worry about, this isn't a lecture about explaining all the details of the OT offering system.
 - i) Though there is a place for that!
 - ii) It will help you better understand the holiness of God, the sinfulness of man, and the beauty of the Gospel.
 - iii) And will help you understand the NT book of Hebrews.

3) OT offerings, on the surface, might look similar to ancient pagan offerings.

a) They are very different in meaning and purpose.

b) Unlike pagan religion, in the Old Testament teaches:

- i) Strictly forbids all forms of magic, sorcery and superstition.

Ex 22:18; Lev 19:26,31; 20:6,27
Deut 18:9-14; 2Kgs 17:17; 21:6
Acts 19:18-20; Gal 5:19-21; Rev 21:8

- ii) Guilt Offerings combined sacrifice and restitution grounded in covenant law.

Lev 5:14-19; 6:1-7; 7:1-7
Num 5:5-10; Is 53:10

- iii) Offerings focus on moral atonement.

Lev 1:4; 4:20,26,31,35; 5:5-10; 16:29-34

- iv) Above all offerings are covenantal.

Gen 15:9-18; Ex 24:3-8; Lev 26:1-13
Deut 29:10-15; Ps 50:5; Heb 9:18-22

- A biblical covenant is “a bond in blood sovereignly administered.”¹ Gen 15:9-18; Ex 24:3-8; Deut 7:6-11
Jer 31:31-34; Heb 8:6-13; 9:18-22
- This is biblical fellowship. Gen 17:7; Ex 29:44-46; Lev 26:11-12
Jer 31:33; Ezek 37:26-27; 2Cor 6:16
- Which leads to true worship and thanksgiving. Ex 24:3-11; Deut 26:8-11; Ps 50:5,14
Jer 31:33; John 4:23-24; Heb 13:15

4) Let's just briefly look at OT Guilt Offerings. Lev 5:14-19; 6:1-7; 7:1-7
Num 5:5-10; Is 53:10; Heb 10:1-10

a) Clearly the evil pagan Philistines understood the general concept of Guilt Offerings.

i) For the pagans, however, it is transactional and superstitious, meant to buy off the god's anger through symbolic or costly gifts.

ii) It was not to achieve moral or covenantal atonement.

iii) The internal state of one's heart (i.e. one's inner being) is relevant.

b) OT Guilt Offering was a sacrifice for specific sins that required restitution.

c) Guilt Offerings were to be given when:

i) A holy thing was desecrated. Lev 5:14-16

ii) Or, harm was done to another person where repayment or compensation was due. Lev 6:1-7

d) The offender would bring a ram without defect to the priests, and would make restitution by giving the value of what is lost plus, 1/5 more to the injured party, or to the sanctuary. Lev 5:15-16; 6:1-7
Num 5:5-8

e) So, this is about one's sin, and moral guilt, before God who is holy.

i) And it is a debt that must be repaid.

ii) Both by atonement by blood and to make restitution.

- **Atonement** is the divinely appointed means by which sin is covered and fellowship between God and sinners is restored through the shedding of sacrificial blood. Lev 17:11; Is 53:5-6
Matt 26:28; Rom 3:25
Heb 9:22; 1John 1:7

- **Blood** is required because it represents life given in place of life, and God decreed that only through the shedding of blood can sin's penalty—death—be atoned for. Gen 9:4-6
Lev 17:11
Rom 6:23
Heb 9:22; 10:4

The Supreme Offering

1) So, what offering do you have for God today?

a) Did you bring any gold to put in the collection plate?

b) If the Philistines were willing to give such a magnanimous offering shouldn't we who claim to believe bring something better?

2) The truth of the matter, if you understand Scripture, reality, and yourself, is that the only thing you really bring is your sin before a holy and justifiably angry God. Ps 51:3-4,17; Eph 2:1-3
Is 64:6; Luke 18:13-14
Rom 3:10-12,23

¹ This definition of “covenant” is from O. Palmer Robertson excellent book The Christ of the Covenants, which is great read.

a) Remember the words of the prophet Micah: *"With what shall I come to the LORD and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves? Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, in ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* – Micah 6:6-8

i) Does anyone here keep God's law fully?

ii) Who here is perfect in justice? Kindness? Humility before God?

b) Remember the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican
(i.e. tax-collector).

Luke 18:9-17

i) The Pharisee thanked God that he was not a swindler, adulterer, and that he fasts twice a week and gives 10% to the church.
(Which are good things!)

ii) *"But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'"* – Luke 18:13

iii) The Lord Jesus explains: *"I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."* – Luke 18:14

c) As Scripture clearly teaches: *"As it is written, 'There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, there is not even one.'"* – Romans 3:10-12 (Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3)

3) To be blunt, Old Testament sacrifices do not really work.²

a) Yes, the Old Testament, along with the New Testament, is God's inerrant, infallible, inspired, authoritative, written word of God.

Ps 19:7-9; Matt 5:17-18
John 10:35; 2Tim 3:16-17
Heb 4:12; 2Pet 1:20-21

b) However, the New Testament clearly teaches: *"For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."* – Hebrews 10:4

c) Why? Because the Old Testament, especially the Ceremonial Laws, are but shadows and figures, of the reality found in Christ, His work, and His Gospel.

Luke 24:27; John 5:39
Rom 10:4; Col 2:16-17
Heb 8:1-6,13; 10:1-14

d) Hebrews 10:1 – *"For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near."*

4) Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Second of the Trinity, brings the perfect offering.

a) He is the perfect High Priest, who is without sin, and makes perfect intercession and atonement for His people.

Heb 4:14-15; 7:25-27
Heb 9:11-14; 10:11-14
1John 1:7; 2:1-2

b) Because He brings the perfect sacrifice, Himself on the cross, because He is also the true Lamb of God.

John 1:29; Eph 5:2; 1Pet 1:18-19
Heb 9:12-14; 10:10-14; Rev 5:6

² Matt 5:17; Acts 13:38-39; Rom 3:20-28; 4:1-5; 5:9; 7:4-6; 8:3-4; Gal 2:16,21; 3:10-14,24-25; Phil 3:9; Col 2:14-17; Heb 7:11-28; 8:5-13; 9:6-10,13-14,24-28; 10:1-14

- 5) Christ's perfect righteousness, of both His obedience of going to the cross for our sins, and the crediting/imputing of His perfect keeping of the Law to us³, we received by grace alone, through faith alone, on account of Christ alone.⁴
- a) Isaiah 53:10-11 – *"But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring (the saints), He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities."*
 - b) Hebrews 10:18 – *"Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin."*
 - c) And that is truly good news.

New Covenant Offerings

- 1) But there is nothing we should offer to God today?
 - a) We can just do anything we want?
 - b) What? How could someone who understands what Christ has done, by the grace of God, engage in sin, let alone not want to praise God for His mercies and do His will?
- 2) Notice what a blessing it is to be in the New Covenant with its clarity.
 - a) Unlike the Philistines, we give offerings out of thanksgiving based on faith, hope and love for Christ and His perfect offering.
 - b) When you have been liberated by Christ:
 - i) How could you be a swindler, unjust, an adulterer?
 - ii) How could you not want to go to worship, pray and tithe?
- 3) This is the power of the Gospel life.
 - a) To diligently work hard to rest in Christ. Heb 4:11
 - b) To trust in His mercies and sovereign actions.
 - c) And to offer up daily spiritual sacrifices of love, based on trusting and hoping in Him, daily, and especially on the His day, the Lord's Day.
 - d) Hebrews 13:15 – *"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name."*
 - e) Hebrews 12:28-29 – *"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire."*

³ Is 53:4-6,11; Matt 3:15; 5:17; 20:28; John 10:11,17-18; Rom 3:21-22,25-26; 4:5-8,22-25; 5:9,18-19; 8:3-4; 10:4; 2Cor 5:21; Gal 2:16; 3:13; 4:4-5; Eph 1:7; Phil 2:8; 3:9; Col 1:20-22; Heb 2:10; 4:15; 5:8-9; 7:26-27; 9:12-14; 10:10-14; 1Pet 2:22-24; 3:18.

⁴ Gen 15:6; Ps 143:2; Is 43:7; 46:13; 53:10-12; Hab 2:4; Matt 16:16-17; Mark 10:52; 16:16; John 1:12-13; 3:16-18; 5:24; 6:28-29; 8:24; Acts 8:22; 10:43; 13:39; 14:6; 15:10-11; 16:14,31; Rom 1:16-17; 3:20-28; 4:3-5; 5:1; 9:30; 10:4-6,9; 11:6; Gal 2:16,21; 3:5-6,11,14,22-25; 5:4; Eph 1:5-8,13; 2:8-9; Phil 1:29; 3:4-11; 1Tim 1:16; 2Tim 1:9; 2:25; Titus 3:4-7; Heb 10:38; 11:7,38; 12:2; 1Pet 1:5,21; 1John 5:1,13.