

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Conservative, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
June 14, 2026

*"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 2:5*



trinityreformedct.org

“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Galatians 6:7-10

Leader: Do not be deceived, God is not mocked;

People: For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Leader: For the one who sows to his own flesh

People: Will from the flesh reap corruption,

Leader: But the one who sows to the Spirit

People: Will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Leader: Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap

People: If we do not grow weary.

Leader: So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,

People: And especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Ephesians 2:17-22

***Hymn #629** – *“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”*

Scripture Reading – Hebrews 3:1-6 (Numbers 12:7)

Ancient Creedal Proclamation – Apostle 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”*

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#124.

Leader:	<i>What does the third petition (of the Lord's Prayer, which is "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven") mean?</i>	Matt 7:21; 16:24-26 Luke 22:42
People:	Help us and all people to reject our own wills	Rom 12:1-2
Leader:	<i>And to obey Your will without any back talk.</i>	Titus 2:11-12
People:	Your will alone is good.	
Leader:	<i>Help us one and all to carry out the work we are called to,</i>	1Cor 7:17-24; Eph 6:5-9
People:	As willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven	Ps 103:20-21

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Matthew 24:42-51 (Luke 12:42-48)

***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 – “Parable of the Faithful & Wicked Servant”

A Sermon Series on Parables

Ministry of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation & Warning

TRC practices guarded open communion. All who profess faith in Christ, have been baptized, have a basic understanding of this sacrament, and are in good standing with a biblical local church are welcome to the Lord's Table. If you are uncertain whether you should partake, it is wise to abstain and speak with the pastor afterward.

Prayer

Words of Institution – Matthew 26:26-28 + Luke 22:19-20; 1Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:26

“While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.’ . . . Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.”

Partaking of the Bread and then the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #460** – “Amazing Grace”

***Benediction**

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements

- The Church would like to thank Rebekah Aldrich for filling in on the piano today.
- **In July and August church start at 9:30 AM.** There is no Sunday School during the summer months.
- **July 18th**, Saturday, there will be a **Pool Party / Picnic Pot-Luck** starting at noon at the Gabelmann's. Sandwich platters, beverages and an ice cream bar will be provided. If possible, please bring a pot-luck food item. (We will gather rain or shine.)
- **October 10th**, Saturday, there will our annual **Oktoberfest** at the Aldrich's. If possible, please bring a food item. (*Rain Date*: October 17th)

Regular Studies & Gatherings (for the summer)

- **Sunday School** stops for July & August.
- **Tuesday Morning Study** has stopped for the summer.
- **Wednesday Study** will continue through June; It's last day is June 24th.
- **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

<i>TRC's Webpage:</i>	TrinityReformedCT.org
<i>TRC's Facebook Page:</i>	facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/
<i>TRC's Youtube Channel:</i>	youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT
<i>Pastor Doug's</i>	youtube.com/simplyreformed
<i>Youtube Channels:</i>	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

<i>Elders:</i>	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
<i>Deacons:</i>	David Mattson (chair), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell, Mason Goodell, Dean Winters		
<i>Sunday School:</i>	Verna Aldrich	<i>Music Coordinator:</i>	Cindy Rines
<i>Clerk:</i>	Sheryl Gabelmann	<i>Treasurer:</i>	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

Matthew 24:42-51 (Luke 12:42-48)
"Parable of the Faithful & Wicked Servant"
A Sermon Series on Parables
June 14, 2026

Introduction

- 1) What are we? With reference to this local assembly called Trinity Reformed Church?
 - a) How would you describe a church?
 - b) A social club? A spiritual hospital? A civics organization?
 - c) A Family? A Household?
 - d) Is there a difference between a family and a household?
- 2) Let's ponder this today as we go through the Parable of the Faithful & Wicked Servant

Things to Remember

- 1) When dealing with parables, don't read too much into them.
 - a) This parable almost borders on a mixed metaphor.
 - b) The identity of the head of the household, the slave and thief, changes as you go through it.
 - c) Technically, this is a rapid shift of illustrations.
- 2) Focus on the meaning, which is clear: Be ready!
- 3) Remember to unpack the pronouns.
 - a) The immediate hearers of this parable were His disciples 2,000 years ago. Matt 24:3
 - b) The next group, in context, with regards to this parable, are church leaders, especially those who administer the Word (i.e. pastors & elders).
 - c) Of course, this also has a broad application for all Christians, as does all of Scripture.
- 4) Also, remember this chapter is about Christ's return which has several layers of application: Matt 24:1-3
 - a) First, and foremost, at the end of the age when He will return in power and glory, bring in final judgment, and the new heavens and new earth. Matt 24:30-31; 25:31-46
Acts 17:31; 2Pet 3:10-13
Rev 20:11-15; 21:1-5
 - b) There is a secondary application about the destruction of God's OT House, the Temple, in 70 AD. Matt 23:37-38
Matt 24:1-2,15-21,34
 - c) Of course there is an individual secondary application that we all, unless Christ returns, will "shuffle off this mortal coil." Gen 3:19; Job 14:1-2
Ps 90:3-10; Heb 9:27
1Cor 15:51-53; 2Cor 5:1-4
- 5) However, and again, the main focus of the parable is clear: Be ready, be faithful.

Matthew 24:42 - Be Alert

- 1) We read last week the Parable of the Fig Tree. Matt 24:32-41
 - a) Which teaches that Christ will return and there will be judgment.
 - b) If you have no forgiveness then you really don't have faith.
 - c) And only the agonies of hell await such wicked people.

- 2) To reinforce the main point, again, we read in Matthew 24:42 – “*Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.*”
- 3) To further drive the point home the Lord Jesus teaches the Parable of the Faithful & Wicked Servant, today’s sermon text. Matt 24:43-51
- 4) Note how this text begins.
 - a) He introduces the parable with: “*But be sure of this . . .*” – Matthew 24:43
 - b) When our Lord starts to repeat Himself and use such forms of language as an “*exhortatory imperative*”, i.e. a command urging action, we probably should listen.

Matthew 24:43-44 – Getting Ready for a Thief

- 1) If Christ's return will come unexpectedly, His disciples must remain continually watchful and spiritually prepared for His coming.
- 2) Be careful of not reading too much into this parable at first.
 - a) Remember a parable is: A brief fictional analogy drawn from ordinary life that usually conveys a single central universal truth.
 - b) You could get yourself in such a tangled knot in this section that you think the head of the house and the thief are both Jesus Christ!
- 3) If a head of the house knew at what time a thief would try to break in he would be ready.
 - a) But if he did not know when exactly a thief would break in, and lived in a neighborhood full of thieves, he would have to be vigilant and discerning.
 - i) You can’t live a life of hyper-vigilance (i.e. paranoid), that would make you uncharitable and probably crazy.
 - ii) Thus, discernment is required to know how vigilant you should be.
 - b) Being vigilant is the point of this verse.
- 4) As we see in the next verse: “*For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.*” – Matthew 24:44
 - a) We are to be vigilant, ready for Christ’s return.
 - b) Again, this state of watchfulness and discerning is very critical.
 - i) If we knew the time then watchfulness would not be necessary.
 - ii) If there were no signs then discernment would be impossible.
 - c) One of the most important signs that there will be judgment, especially with the final judgment coming at Christ’s return, is an increase of false teaching and lawlessness, and the cooling of true love among many who claim to be Christians. Deut 13:1-5; Jer 23:16-22
Matt 24:11-13; 2Thes 2:3-12
1Tim 4:1-3; 2Tim 3:1-5
2Pet 2:1-3; 1John 2:18-19
 - i) This first, and foremost, applies to the church.
 - ii) It can also apply to families and individuals.
- 5) Clearly, He will return, there is no doubt – the King has spoken.
 - a) His return will come at a time we do not know.
 - b) Thus, we are to be ready.

Matthew 24:45-47 – The Faithful Slave

- 1) To keep hammering this critical point home, our Lord continues.
- 2) Our Lord then speaks about slaves in a (different) household.
 - a) Remember slavery was common in the ancient world.
 - b) And slaves could range from having terrible jobs (e.g. miners) to very prestigious jobs (e.g. managers of great estates).
- 3) He asks “*who then is the faithful and sensible slave?*” – Matthew 24:45b
 - a) In particular, this is focused on the disciples. Matt 24:3
 - i) And thus, our first application is to hear about church leaders, such as elders and pastors.
 - ii) And then broadly all Christians.
 - b) We hear what type of slaves these are because they were put in charge to feed the others in the master’s house “at the proper time”, i.e. at the correct time according to their master’s orders.
 - c) These are slaves in charge of other slaves, to make sure they are fed.
 - d) Similar to church leaders who are called to “feed” the saints spiritually.
 - i) First, and foremost, by the administration of the Word through preaching and the giving of the sacraments on the Lord’s Day, the first day of the week. Jer 3:15; Ezek 34:2-16
John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28
Eph 4:11-13; 1Tim 4:13-16
2Tim 4:1-2; 1Pet 5:1-4.
 - ii) To care for and oversee the flock by administering the affairs of Christ’s household, the church, faithfully. Acts 20:28; 1Cor 4:1-2
1Tim 3:4-5,15; Titus 1:7-9
Heb 13:17; 1Pet 5:1-3
- 4) When Christ returns, and if He finds these slaves being faithful, they are blessed. Matt 24:46
 - a) They are granted greater honor, authority, and responsibilities, in the Kingdom to come. Matt 25:21,23; Luke 19:17-19; 1Cor 3:12-14
2Tim 2:12; Rev 2:26-27; 22:12
 - b) As Christ teaches, “*Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.*” – Matthew 24:47
 - c) So, pastors get more stuff in heaven? Better seats?
No.
 - d) This reward is a gracious reward.
 - e) The servant's faithfulness demonstrates genuine faith, and Christ graciously crowns His own work in His people.
 - f) The reward is seeing the household you are called to care for to be well fed and the Master is pleased with all His household. Matt 25:21,23; 2Cor 11:2
Col 1:28-29; 1Thes 2:19-20
1Pet 5:2-4; 3John 4
 - g) 1Thessalonians 2:19-20 – “*For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.*”

Matthew 24:48-51 – The Unfaithful Slave

- 1) If there are such blessings for the faithful slave, what about the unfaithful/evil slave?
- 2) This slave thinks in his heart “*My master is not coming for a long time.*” – Matt 24:48

3) He grievously mistreats the Master's other slaves.

Matt 24:49

a) He beats his fellow slaves.

i) He is above the other slaves in duty but still they are all slaves

ii) Like elders have special duties but all Christians are saints.

b) He eats and drinks with drunkards.

Matt 24:48-49; Ezek 34:2-10; 1Pet 5:2-3

i) This is the church leader who abandons his calling and identifies with the world instead of Christ and His people.

ii) This wicked slave uses Christ's church to serve himself instead of using himself to serve Christ's church.

4) When the master returns, at a time the wicked slave does not think, the Master "*will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*" – Matthew 24:51b

a) This is obviously a reference to hell.

b) Thus "*let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.*" – James 3:1

About Hell

1) Hell is the place of eternal death and anguish with weeping and gnashing of teeth for all the wicked.

Matt 25:41,46; Mark 9:43-48

Luke 16:23-28; 2Thes 1:8-9

Rev 14:10-11; 20:10,14-15

a) Hell is a literal place,

b) And no one teaches more about hell in the Bible than Jesus Christ.

Matt 5:22,29-30; 10:28; ; 13:41-42,49-50

Matt 25:41,46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31

2) For most modern Christians they don't know what to do with hell. Either rejecting it, ignoring it or misusing it.

a) For liberal "Christians", pagans, and secularists there is no hell.

i) They cannot understand how a loving God can also have harsh judgment.

ii) Because they don't believe they are sinful or that God is holy.

iii) Thus, they are unconcerned about Christ's return.

iv) They are not watchful or discerning because they don't really have faith in the true Christ, as revealed in Scripture.

b) For Evangelicals they officially believe in hell but ignore it, treating it as an embarrassment because it hurts their marketing and entertainment business philosophies.

c) For Fundamentalists they think blaring "you are going to hell" is preaching the Gospel.

3) It is interesting how the Lord Jesus uses hell in the Gospels.

a) Yes, He brings up hell when speaking to those who oppose Him, like the religious hypocrites and those in the world.

Matt 5:22; 23:15,33

Luke 12:4-5; John 3:18,36

b) But He frequently uses hell to demand sanctification, repentance, perseverance, and self-examination among His disciples.

Matt 5:22,29-30; 7:21-23

Matt 18:8-9; Mark 9:43-48

4) Think of our recent sermon on the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant.

Matt 18:21-35

a) If a Christian came to you and said they are wrestling with forgiveness, what would you tell them?

- i) Give them a hug and tell them God loves them?
 - ii) Give them a four-point plan on how to forgive better?
- b) The Lord Jesus gives a long parable which ends with the head of household (God the Father) moved by extreme anger, having the unforgiving one tortured for all eternity.
 - i) And concludes with *“My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”* – Matthew 18:35
 - ii) This is a very different approach!
- c) Note what it does:
 - i) It highlights how important forgiveness really is, both for our neighbor’s sake, the state of our soul, and our eternal destiny. Matt 6:14-15; 18:21-35
Mark 11:25-26; Luke 17:3-4
Eph 4:32; Col 3:13
 - ii) It turns our attention away from ourselves and the thing, or person, that we are offended by, and to God.
 - iii) Which brings the fear of God, the beginning of wisdom and knowledge, because what/who is ever offending you is nothing compared to the Creator of the universe’s eternal wrath against your sins. Deut 10:12-13; Job 28:28
Prov 1:7; 9:10; Ps 111:10
Matt 10:28; Luke 12:4-5
Heb 10:28-31; 12:28-29
 - iv) Which will drive you to the cross and produce in you true faith, because only by trusting in Christ will there be forgiveness. Luke 18:13-14; John 3:16-18
Acts 16:30-31; Rom 3:20-28
Gal 3:22-24; Eph 2:8-9
 - v) This true faith will humble you making it easier for you to forgive and prepare you for heaven. Matt 6:14-15; 18:21-35
Eph 4:32; Col 3:13
- 4) Same lesson for those who teach and lead in the church.
 - a) The King takes the management of His Household very, very seriously.
 - b) His slaves, your fellow slaves whom you are commanded to feed, the King greatly cares for.
 - c) It is your job to tend to His slaves and feed them His Word.
 - d) 2Timothy 3:12-4:5.
- 5) This has implications for parishioners, too.
 - a) How terrible of a sin is it for those slaves who hate the food the Master is giving them.
 - b) 2Timothy 3:12-4:5 is not just about church leaders; It is about those who are fed.
 - i) We are in a covenantal relationship with each other and the Triune God.
 - ii) Because we are in God’s Household through the blood of Christ.

About the Household

- 1) Question, is there a difference between “family” and “household”?
 - a) Which term do you prefer?
 - b) Both are found throughout the Bible and are good words.
 - c) However, why do we hardly ever use the word “household” today?
- 2) Need to define our terms and know there is much overlap between them, though they are different.

- a) A **family** is a kinship unit based on blood, marriage, or descent.
 - i) Think parents, children, siblings, grandparents, cousins, extended relatives, etc.
 - ii) It is focused on relationship and lineage.
- b) A **household** is an authority and economic unit under a recognized head.
 - i) Think husband, wife, children, servants, slaves, dependents, sometimes other relatives, etc.
 - ii) It is focused on government, provision, and stewardship.
- 3) The Bible uses family terms, where God is our Father and we are His children - adopted brothers and sisters.

Ex 4:22; Deut 32:6; Is 63:16; Mal 2:10; Matt 6:9
Matt 12:49-50; John 1:12-13; Rom 8:14-17
Gal 4:4-7; Eph 1:5; 3:14-15; 1John 3:1-2
- 4) However, the Bible frequently, and directly describes the church as “the household of God.”

Gal 6:10; Eph 2:19; 1Tim 3:15
Heb 3:6; 1Pet 2:5; 4:17

 - a) As Paul writes in 1Timothy 3:15 – *“I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”*
 - b) Jesus Christ is the Head of this household.
 - c) Christ governs His House by His Spirit through His Word and the servants He has appointed.

Matt 28:18-20; John 16:13-15; Acts 20:28
Eph 4:11-16; Col 1:18; 1Pet 5:1-4
 - d) One of the most fearsome judgments God gives is to turn over a “church” to false under-shepherds who only feed the hard-hearted myths and worldly lies to tickle their ears and not be concerned that the Master will return some day.

1Sam 2:12-17,27-36
Jer 5:30-31; Ezek 34:2-10
Matt 24:48-51; 2Tim 4:3-4
2Pet 2:1-3; Rev 2:20-23
 - e) This should make us walk all our days in the fear of the Lord.
- 5) Judgment does come upon the visible church, as we read in today’s parable.

1Peter 4:17 – *“For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”*
- 6) Therefore we are to be faithful, like our Master.

Hebrews 3:6 – *“but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.”*
- 7) Let us work hard at worshipping the Lord, and being fed by His Word.

1Peter 2:4-5 – *“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.”*
- 8) And from that, let us go and love our neighbors.

Galatians 6:10 – *“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”*
- 9) Because the Household we dwell in is glorious.

Ephesians 2:19-22 – *“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”*