Trinity Reformed Church
of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Conservative, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
October 18, 2026

*"Train up a child in the way he should go,
Even when he is old he will not depart from it."* – Proverbs 22:6

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"*" = *Please stand if you are able.*

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Leader: *Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God,*
People: **The LORD is one!**
Leader: *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul*
People: **And with all your might.**
Leader: *These words, which I am commanding you today,*
People: **Shall be on your heart.**
Leader: *You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way*
People: **And when you lie down and when you rise up.**
Leader: *You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.*
People: **You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

Prayer of Invocation and Confession
Gospel Absolution Text – Hebrews 2:13-15

***Hymn #2** – "*O Worship the King*"

Scripture Reading – Psalm 78:1-7

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 #90B** – "*O Teach Us How to Count Our Days*"

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 – Second Helvetic Confession, 25A.

Leader: *The Lord enjoined His ancient people to exercise the greatest care*

People: **That young people, even from infancy, be properly instructed.**

Leader: *Moreover, He expressly commanded in His law that they should teach them,*

People: **And that the mysteries of the sacraments should be explained.**

Leader: *Now since it is well known from the writings of the Evangelists and apostles that God has no less concern for the youth of His new people, when He openly testifies and says:*

People: **"Let the children come to Me; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven"** Mark 10:14

Leader: *The pastors of the churches act most wisely when they early and carefully catechize the youth,*

People: **Laying the first grounds of faith,**

Leader: *And faithfully teaching the rudiments of our religion by expounding*

People: **The Ten Commandments,**

Leader: *The Apostles' Creed,*

People: **The Lord's Prayer,**

Leader: *And the doctrine of the sacraments,*

People: **With other such principles and chief heads of our religion.**

Leader: *Here let the Church show her faith and diligence in bringing the children to be catechized,*

People: **Desirous and glad to have her children well instructed.**

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

*Sermon Text – Acts 2:41-42

*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 – "Confirmation"

(A Mini-Series on Baptism)

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 #7 – "*From All That Dwell Below the Skies*"

*Benediction

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

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Announcements

- The church would like to thank all those who organized today's special coffee hour.
- Starting **next Sunday** (Oct 25th), the **Adult Sunday School** will begin a **new study** introducing **Presuppositional Apologetics**. Presuppositional apologetics is a school of Christian apologetics (how to defend the faith) that asserts all reasoning depends on foundational presuppositions and that the Triune God and His revelation in Scripture are the necessary starting point for all intelligible thought. Pastor Doug thinks this is the most powerful way of defending the faith and very helpful in sanctifying the mind for Christ.
- The **Gen Alpha Club** will meet from 2:00 to 4:00 on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.
- Pastor Doug's **Tuesday & Wednesday Studies** are currently on pause, they will return soon.
- The **4th Annual Christmas Party** will be on Friday, **December 4th**.
- TRC's **Annual Meeting** is after church, on Sunday, **December 13th**. The snow-day is December 20th.
- **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

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 — ***Music Coordinator***: Cindy Rines

Clerk: Sheryl Gabelmann — ***Treasurer***: Cindy Rines

Sermon Notes

Acts 2:41-42
"Confirmation"
A Mini-Series on Baptism
October 18, 2026

Introduction

1) We are in a sermon series on Proverbs 1-9.
    a) We are seeking to learn the wisdom from above not the wisdom from below. James 3:13-18
    b) One of the major themes of Proverbs, including how Proverbs 1-9 is structured, is giving wisdom to a young man, which all ages can learn from.
        i) Both individually.
        ii) But also how to function collectively on where we should put our priority.
2) Today's sermon, however, is not about Proverbs!
    a) We will return to that next week.
    b) We need one more sermon on baptism, kind of.
        i) We have had two baptisms over the last two Sundays, praise God!
        ii) Last week was an infant baptism.
3) Question: Now what? How do "we" raise up a baptized child?
4) This requires wisdom, discernment, the fear of the Lord, and correctly weighing out God's Word.

Maturity – A Test

1) Maturity means that not only do you know the correct answer but how to correctly weigh out, and apply that to any given situation, which requires much more wisdom than answering a simple question. Prov 1:5; 2:6-11; 8:12; 14:8,15 Prov 15:22; 18:13,17; 22:3; 24:3-6 1Kgs 3:9-12; Phil 1:9-10 Heb 5:14; James 1:5
2) Let me give you my favorite example:
    a) *Question*: Should you read your Bible frequently? Answer: Yes.
        i) *Question*: Should you go to church and listen to the sermon? Answer: Yes.
        ii) But those are easy questions, even unbelievers would answer correctly.
    b) A more interesting riddle (to use the language of Proverbs): Prov 1:6; Ps 49:4; 78:2
        i) *Question*: Which one is more important, going to church on Sunday or reading your Bible?
        ii) Most Evangelicals would quickly answer: Reading my Bible!
3) That is the wrong answer.
    a) The Bible clearly commands the preaching of the Word on the Lord's Day.[1]
    b) While I know of only one verse that might directly command individual Bible reading. (Isaiah 34:16 – "*Seek from the book of the Lord, and read: Not one of these will be missing; None will lack its mate. For His mouth has commanded, and His Spirit has gathered them.*")

[1] Deut 31:12-13; Lev 23:3; Neh 8:1-8; Luke 4:16-21; Acts 2:42; 13:14-16,42-44; 15:21; 20:7; Rom 10:14-17; 1Cor 16:2; Col 4:16; 1Thes 2:13; 5:27; 1Tim 4:13; 2Tim 4:2; Heb 10:24-25; 13:7,17; James 1:21-22; Rev 1:10.

4) Many evangelicals will exclaim: Pastor, why are you saying we shouldn't read our Bibles?!
    a) I didn't say that, at all.
    b) It is a good and godly practice to read your Bible! — Deut 17:18-19; Is 34:16; John 5:39; Acts 8:28-30; 17:11; Rev 1:3
    c) But why do so many hear only either/or?
        i) Why do so many favor individual practice over the corporate activity?
        ii) Are we willing to let the Word cut deep and reorder our thinking? To expose out idols?
    d) By the way, the majority of the texts used to defend reading the Bible are actually commanding meditating on God's Law and the Gospel, which is a slightly different thing.[2]
    e) The simple man has just knowledge/data, the wise man correctly applies such knowledge. — Prov 1:4-5; 8:5; 14:8,15,18; Prov 15:21-22; 22:3; Heb 5:14
5) The world trains us to think only individualistically, that education is value neutral and only about data, and that gender and age are not factors, which are all lies.
6) So today, I want to ponder educating children and publicly read TRC's new Confirmation policy.

Acts 2

1) Over the last two weeks we have looked at Acts 2.
    a) The first Christian Pentecost where Peter's sermon convicts thousands.
    b) Acts 2:37 – "*Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?'*"
    c) And then that great response: "*Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself . . . Be saved from this perverse generation!*" – Acts 2:38-39,40b
    d) About 3,000 repent and are baptized. — Acts 2:41
2) What do they do? How are these new Christians educated?
    a) Acts 2:42 – "*They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*"
    b) So, Acts focuses on education happening corporately within the church, with all ages present, and being centered around worship, prayer and fellowship.
    c) Is that how we think when it comes to education?
3) The Bible frequently speaks about educating children and we must heed that command.
    a) There is freedom on how we do this.
    b) However, we should put the priority on where the Bible puts the priority, but that requires faith and the fear of the LORD, which is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. — Prov 1:7; Eccles 12:13
4) The Bible focuses on two main approaches when it comes to education.

[2] Deut 6:6-9; Josh 1:8; Ps 1:1-2; 19:7-14; 63:6; 77:11-12; 119:15,23,27,48,78,97-99,148; 143:5; Col 3:1-4,16; 2Tim 2:8; Heb 3:1; 12:2-3; 1Pet 1:13.

Biblical Education #1 – Fathers Teaching Their Sons

1) First, and foremost, Scripture assumes it is the job of parents to educate their children, especially fathers educating their sons.[3]

2) What?! Are you saying mothers and daughters are not to be involved in the educational process?!

   a) No. Mothers are to teach their children and girls should be taught.

   b) As we read in Proverbs 1:8 – "*Hear, my <u>son</u>, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching;*" Prov 6:20

   c) And the Bible commands women to learn from the church, their husbands, and older women. Jesus praises Mary for learning at His feet. And women can offer great wisdom, like Priscilla. Deut 31:12-13; Neh 8:2-3; Luke 10:39-42; Acts 18:26; 1Tim2:11-12; Titus 2:3-5; 2Tim 1:5 + 3:14-15

   d) But a question for the modern evangelical: If your reaction to my statement that the Bible focuses on father's educating their sons is negative, why is that? Have you been trained by the world? Do you have an idol?

3) Always remember the superior is burdened with duty. If a woman is to "*receive instruction with entire submissiveness*" (1Tim 2:11b) from a man, that puts a greater burden on the man to make sure he is teaching correctly with all gentleness, because the Lord holds those who lead and teach to a higher standard. Luke 12:47-48; Eph 5:25-29; 2Tim 2:25; Titus 3:2; 1Pet 3:7,15; James 3:1

   a) Men are called to lead, in the church, in the family, and in society. Deut 1:13-17; 1Cor 11:3; Eph 5:22-33; 1Tim 2:11-14; 3:1-5; Titus 1:5-9

   b) And a critical part of the manly leadership is to train the next generation. Gen 18:19; Deut 6:6-7; Ps 78:5-7; Prov 4:1-4; Eph 6:4; 2Tim 2:2

4) To give but a few examples:

   a) Deuteronomy 6:7 – "*You* (the people) *shall teach them* (God's Law) *diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.*"

   b) Isaiah 38:19 – "*It is the living who give thanks to You, as I do today; A father tells his sons about Your faithfulness.*"

   c) Ephesians 6:4 – "*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*"

5) Notice this is much more than data or just education in a classroom.

   a) Though data (e.g. factually knowing the Ten Commandments & Gospel) is necessary.

   b) And it doesn't forbid classrooms.

   c) True education focuses on moral character by obeying the Law and resting in the Gospel.

   d) And education is a lifestyle of imparting faithfulness, instruction, wisdom, in the fear of the Lord, by word and deeds with firmness and charity, and that takes a lot of wisdom.

Biblical Education #2 – Corporate Worship

1) The other place the Bible clearly shows the education of children is through the church.

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[3] Gen 18:19; Ex 12:26-27; Deut 4:9-10; 6:6-9,20-25; 11:18-21; 32:46; Josh 4:6-7,21-24; Ps 34:11; 78:3-7; Prov 1:8; 4:1-4; 6:20-23; 13:1; 22:6; 23:22; 29:17; Is 38:19; Joel 1:3; Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20-21; 1Thes 2:11-12; 1Tim 3:4-5,12; 5:8; 2Tim 1:5; 3:14-15.

2) However, it mainly shows educating the entire congregation through corporate worship![4] Deut 31:12-13; Josh 8:34-35 Neh 8:2-8; Joel 2:16

3) To give but two examples:

   a) In Deuteronomy 31:12-13, as Israel is about to enter the Promised Land, Moses commands that every seven years, during the annual Feast of Booths, the entire nation (men, women, and children) assemble to hear God's Law read publicly.

      Deuteronomy 31:12-13 – "*Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law. Their children, who have not known, will hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live on the land which you are about to cross the Jordan to possess.*"

   b) Exodus 12:26-27 teaches that one of the purposes of the Sacraments is as a teaching aid for the ***parents*** to teach their children, which leads to the true purpose of all education: Worship.

      Exodus 12:26-28 – "*And when your children say to you, 'What does this rite mean to you?' you shall say, 'It is a Passover sacrifice to the LORD who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt when He smote the Egyptians, but spared our homes.' And the people bowed low and worshiped.*"

The Education Trap

1) Do we think like this?

   a) That the purpose of all education is to teach the fear of the Lord to produce faithfulness, creating a moral foundation that always ends in worship?

   b) That the main places one educates their children is at the home and in worship?

   c) And it is the primary responsibility of the father, as the head of his household, to do so?

2) But so many lies of the world have snuck into our thinking and actions.

   a) Remember the most effective lies are based on truth.

   b) Educating your children is important (good & true) . . .

      i) Therefore, we will create all these institutions and traditions to help parents educate their children (Okay, but should be a bit concerned) . . .

         • In the church we will have Sunday School, Children's Programs, Youth Groups, and Children's Messages during the worship.

         • We will create in society Public Schools, Seminaries, and Para-Church organizations like the YMCA or AWANA, to teach the faith. (Yes, the Public Schools were originally created to teach Protestantism.)

      ii) These can be very good things, and they can do much good.

         • Most of them are very modern creations (19th & 20th centuries), however.

         • And in our Christian freedom they can be certainly created and used. (Except maybe Children's Messages during Sunday Service.)

         • I am very thankful for all those in TRC who work with the children and youth, it is a good and glorious labor unto the Lord – Thank you!

[4] Ex 12:26-27; 13:14; Deut 6:20-25; 31:12-13; Josh 8:34-35; Ps 78:4-7; Neh 8:2-8; Joel 2:16; Matt 19:13-15; Acts 2:39-42; Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20-21; 1Tim 4:13; 2Tim 3:14-15

c) However, there is a trap here, unless we be wise.

i) Like the trap I mentioned at the beginning where reading one's Bible (a good thing) becomes more important than attend worship.

ii) The things listed above can subtly, unintentionally, lead to bad things: Where parents, especially fathers, do not have to worry about educating the children, especially their sons, and we view the church, and in particular corporate worship on the Lord's Day, as having little educational purpose, and thus diminish worship and Christ's church itself.

3) There is a place for secondary things to give assistance (like Sunday School) but do you see the possible problem and the danger?

a) The increased focus on the individual.

b) The removal of children from other age groups.

c) That education is merely about data that is neutrally given, which is such a lie, instead of moral formation.

d) That the main purpose of education is to get a good job to make money.

e) That the church, worship, and family (especially fathers), have less and less of a role.

Confirmation

1) Again there is a place for the church to assist. We are here to help!

a) There is a place for children/youth based additional structures.

b) But we need discernment to make sure we put the correct weigh out what the Scriptures put the focus on.

2) One of the earliest attempts to help, that got twisted into something wrong over time, is the ancient, though not biblical, tradition of the church: Confirmation.

a) The history of Confirmation is fascinating but we do not have the time to go into it right now.

b) Confirmation is a ritual involving anointing with oil and laying on of hands to invoke the Holy Spirit, originally associated with Baptism but later developed by the Western Church into a separate sacrament believed to confer additional grace.

i) This is not found in the Bible.

ii) It also becomes tied up with educating children, church membership, access to the Lord's Supper, a rite of passage, depending on the Christian tradition.

3) There is a place for tradition in the church – to show respect to those who went before. 1Cor 11:2; 2Thes 2:15; 3:6 2Tim 2:2; Heb 13:7; 13:17

a) If you think you have no traditions, you are blind to them, which is very dangerous.

b) I love the church historian Jaroslav Pelikan's quote on this, to paraphrase him: Good tradition is the living faith of the dead, bad tradition is the dead faith of the living.

4) I know this is a boring way to end this sermon, however, it is our tradition that any policy created by the Elders should be preached on.

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Trinity Reformed Church

Confirmation Policy
Approved by the Elders on October 17, 2026

Section I – Definition & Description

1) Confirmation is *not*:
    a) Taught in the Bible and thus it is not binding on a Christian.[5]
    b) A sacrament.
        i) It does not complete baptism.
        ii) Nor is it required to take the Lord's Supper.
    c) Part of one's justification which is accomplished by grace alone, through faith alone, on account of Christ alone
    d) Required for one's sanctification, though it can be an aid.
    e) A sign of membership in the universal church, which alone is the sacrament of Baptism.
    f) Graduation from Christian Education.
    g) A substitute for the duty of parents, especially fathers, to educate their children in the ways of the Lord, as Scripture places the primary responsibility for their religious education upon parents.
2) For Trinity Reformed Church, confirmation is:
    a) A time of special instruction for our youth in the Christian faith.
    b) An opportunity for the youth to affirm their faith in Christ.
    c) An opportunity for the youth to prepare to become voting members in this local assembly.
    d) The decision to complete the Confirmation process belongs solely to the youth, not to their parents.

Section II – Administration

1) Curriculum:
    a) Overview of the basics of the Bible and systematic theology.
    b) Overview of the history of the Christian church, especially our Reformed Tradition.
    c) What it means to be a member in Trinity Reformed Church, and how faith and the sacraments are related to that.
    d) The basic requirements will include a testimonial/doctrine paper related to weekly homework assignments, prayer journal and weekly "ask the pastor" questions. There also might be the possibility for a retreat and a service project.
2) Schedule:
    a) Follows the academic year, starting in September and ending in May/June.
    b) The confirmands will be recognized before the Lord's Day worship on Pentecost.
    c) Meet once a week, usually for 1.5 hours.
3) Requirements:
    a) Confirmands should be in their sophomore year (10th grade).
    b) The Elders will examine the youth and approve any candidate for Confirmation.
    c) If mentors are assigned, they will meet periodically with the confirmands, join in with special confirmation events and give assistance, aid and support throughout the process.
4) Benefits: Upon confirmation the youth is considered a full member of the church.

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[5] The ancient Church, around the 3rd century AD, began to develop a rite later called Confirmation (or Chrismation in the East) as the post-baptismal completion of Christian initiation: the newly baptized were anointed and received the laying on of hands, by the clergy, after which they received the Lord's Supper. When infants were baptized, they ordinarily received this rite immediately; adult converts first underwent catechetical instruction and then received Baptism, Confirmation or Chrismation, and first communion together, commonly at Easter. In the West, Confirmation gradually became separated from Baptism because its administration was reserved to the bishop, who could not be present at every baptism.