Trinity Reformed Church
of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Conservative, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
November 1, 2026

"*Does not wisdom call, and understanding lift up her voice?*" – Proverbs 8:1

trinityreformedct.org

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

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Joel 2:27-29

Leader: *Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel,*
People: **And that I am the LORD your God,**
Leader: *And there is no other;*
People: **And My people will never be put to shame.**
Leader: *It will come about after this*
People: **That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind;**
Leader: *And your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams,*
People: **Your young men will see visions.**
Leader: *Even on the male and female servants*
People: **I will pour out My Spirit in those days.**

Prayer of Invocation and Confession
Gospel Absolution Text – 1Corinthians 6:9-11

*Hymn #370 – "*Revive Thy Work, O Lord*"

Scripture Reading – Matthew 11:7-19
(Note in verse 19, Wisdom is a "her".)

Ancient Creedal Proclamation – Nicene Creed (pg#846 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 #50B – "*O You, My People, Hear*"

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins) – *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

Reformation Creedal Reading – Westminster Larger Catechism, 67.

Leader:	*What is effectual calling?*	
People:	**Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace,**	John 5:25; Eph 1:18-20 2Tim 1:8-9
Leader:	*Whereby out of His free and special love to His elect,*	Titus 3:4-5; Eph 2:4-5,7-9
People:	**And from nothing in them moving Him thereunto**	Rom 9:11
Leader:	*He does, in His accepted time, invite and draw them to Jesus Christ,*	2Cor 5:20; 6:1-2 John 6:44
People:	**By His word and Spirit;**	2Thes 2:13-14
Leader:	*Savingly enlightening their minds,*	Acts 26:18, 1Cor 2:10,12
People:	**Renewing and powerfully determining their wills,**	Ezek 11:19; 36:26-27; John 6:45
Leader:	*So as they although in themselves dead in sin are hereby made willing and able freely to answer His call, and to accept and embrace*	Eph 2:5 Phil 2:13 Deut 30:6
People:	**The grace offered and conveyed therein.**	

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

*Sermon Text – Proverbs 1:20-23

*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 – "Sophia – Lady Wisdom"

(A Sermon Series on Proverbs 1-9)

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 #642 – "*Be Thou My Vision*"

*Benediction

Everyone is welcome to Coffee Hour Fellowship downstairs after church today

Announcements

- TRC is working on **supporting home schooling** and Christian education of the church's children. If you have some skill or talent you would like to share with the children, please contact Pastor Doug.
- 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

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

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Sermon Notes

Proverbs 1:20-23
"Sophia – Lady Wisdom"
A Sermon Series on Proverbs 1-9
November 1, 2026

Introduction

1) Proverbs is poetry.
2) Dramatic poetic characters speak out to us.
3) We read in Proverbs 1:8 that King Solomon, the wisest king ever, is giving instruction to his son. 1Kgs 3:12; 4:29-34; 10:23-24 2Chr 1:11-12; 9:22-23
   a) So we, the listener/reader, are to put ourselves in the prince's place and learn from our wise kingly father.
   b) He is teaching us how to be wise, how to fear the LORD, and to avoid the enticement of sinners.

4) In Proverbs 1:11-14, the wicked are trying to entice us, the son, to follow after their evil ways to engage in great sins, like murder and theft.
    a) They are delusional and heading only to destruction.
    b) In this life and the next.

Sophia – Lady Wisdom

1) In today's sermon text we get arguably the most important poetic character of Proverbs 1-9: Lady Wisdom.
    a) Her Greek name here is"***Sophia***."
        i) The Greek NT word for wisdom is literally "*sophia*" (σοφία).
        ii) Thus the word "philosophy" is literally "the love of wisdom": *philo-* (loving) + *sophia* (wisdom).
    b) The imagery is powerful, especially through the lens of a young man.
2) Pursuing wisdom is like being a young man looking for a wife, and comes across Lady Wisdom.
    a) The language of wisdom is personal, intimate.
    b) Proverbs 4:5-6,8 – "*Acquire wisdom* (literally Sophia)*! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my* (father's) *mouth. Do not forsake her* (Lady Wisdom, Sophia)*, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you. Prize her, and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her.*"
    c) Proverbs 9:1-5 – "*Wisdom* (Sophia) *has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars; She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; She has also set her table; She has sent out her maidens, she calls from the tops of the heights of the city: Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks understanding she says, 'Come, eat of my food and drink of the wine I have mixed.'*"
3) Because wisdom, like knowledge, is about how it affects the mind, will and soul. Prov 4:6-9; 7:4-5 Prov 9:1-6,13-18
    a) Avoid the foolish insane lies of the world:
        i) The godless belief that knowledge is only about facts and information.
        ii) The godless belief that we are autonomous individuals and the greatest good is individual autonomy and self-determination.
        iii) The godless belief of the myth of neutrality: That learning can be done in a value neutral way and without presuppositions.
    b) Always remember the thesis statement of Proverbs: "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*" – Proverbs 1:7
    c) Remember how Proverbs, how the Bible, describes the basics of learning: Prov 1:2-7; 2:1-11; 4:1-13 Prov 8:10-14; 9:9-10; 19:20
        i) **Knowledge** (*dă·ʿăṯ*) is concerned with knowing and understanding what is true and right.
        ii) **Wisdom** (*ḥāḵ·mā(h)*) is to rightly use that knowledge to judge, choose, to make sound judgments, and to have the skill to live correctly.
        iii) **Instruction** (*mû·sār*) is to learn discipline, correction, and the willingness to take rebuke, which are the means by which we acquire knowledge and grow in wisdom.

Moria – The Whore Folly

1) We will get another poetic female character, the opposite of wisdom, the whore: Folly.
    a) In Greek, "folly" or "foolishness" is "Mōria " (μωρία), so we are going to call her "Moria."
    b) She doesn't officially appear until Proverbs 9:13ff – "*The woman of folly is boisterous, she is naive and knows nothing*."
    c) Her ways, however, appear throughout Proverbs 1-9, however.
        i) Proverbs 2:16 – "*To deliver you from the strange woman, from the adulteress who flatters with her words;*"
        ii) Proverbs 5:3 – "*For the lips of an adulteress* (literally "strange woman", like in 2:16) *drip honey and smoother than oil is her speech;*"
2) So, imagine yourself a young man, a prince even, and your father is giving you wisdom on who you should pursue.

Wisdom Proclaims – Proverbs 1:20-21

1) Sophia, Lady Wisdom, is no wallflower; she is courageous and forthright, proclaiming the truth openly and without fear.
2) Proverbs 1:20-21 – "*Wisdom shouts in the street, she lifts her voice in the square; At the head of the noisy streets she cries out; At the entrance of the gates in the city she utters her sayings:*"
3) Lady Wisdom, Sophia, is publicly calling out in the busiest parts of an ancient city.
    a) **Streets** (v.20): Places where people travel, work, and conduct their daily affairs.
    b) **City Square** (v.20): Open spaces where merchants trade and citizens gather.
    c) **Noisy "Streets"** (v.21): Busy intersections, filled with people, conversation, and commercial activity.
    d) **Entrance of the City Gates** (v.21): Centers of public life where elders judged disputes, business was conducted, and important announcements were made.
4) Of course, in the ancient world they had no newspapers, radios, phones, television, internet, AI, etc. So these public urban gathering places were critical for daily life.
    a) In biblical times, this form of public speaking/gathering is the norm:[1]
        i) Boaz conducts legal business before the elders at the city gate. Ruth 4:1-11
        ii) In Amos the city gate is associated with public rebuke and speaking truth. Amos 5:10
        iii) Paul reasons daily with people in the marketplace of Athens. Acts 17:17
    b) This concept of the public square, like the colonial New England town green, really doesn't exist anymore. (Internet doesn't really count, since it is not local.)
        i) By the way, the New England town greens were originally working public spaces.
        ii) Where religion, commerce, government, and daily community life converged.[2]
        iii) Now they are just basically parks or a walkway to go from the college to McGrane's On The Green.

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[1] Ruth 4:1-11; Neh 8:1-3; Jer 17:19-20; Amos 5:10; John 7:37; Acts 2:14-40; 3:11-12; 17:17, 22-31; 19:29-41.

[2] Various gatherings were common: Religious (meetinghouse on the green), Government (town meeting, public announcements, and civic discussions), Commerce (markets & trading), Military (musters, drills), Social (celebrations, community events), Justice (public punishments), Agricultural (grazing).

5) The meaning is clear:

a) Wisdom is readily accessible. She does not hide her teaching in secret places.

b) Wisdom addresses everyone. Her invitation is public, not restricted to the privileged or educated.

c) Wisdom cannot be accused of remaining silent. She openly warns sinners, making their rejection of her counsel completely on them.

d) The contrast is striking:

i) The wicked in Proverbs 1:10-19 are trying to "entice" us into their evil.

ii) Wisdom is publicly calling us to repent and follow her.

What, or Who, is Wisdom?

1) Of course, wisdom in Proverbs is not literally a woman named Sophia.

2) **Wisdom** (*ḥāḵ·mā(h)*) is to rightly judge, choose, to make sound judgments, and to have the skill to live correctly.

3) Wisdom in Proverbs has several layers of meaning.

a) Wisdom is a **divine attribute**. Job 12:13; Ps 104:24; Prov 2:6; 3:19; 1Kgs 3:28; Dan 2:20 Luke 11:49; Rom 11:33; 1Cor 1:21,24; 2:7; Eph 3:10

i) God is wise and wisdom belongs to Him.

- It is not that there is wisdom above God.
- Wisdom exists and is good because God is wise.
- Like stealing is not wrong because there is some law against stealing above God, but stealing is wrong because God is not a thief.
- Wisdom is an attribute of His very nature and character.

ii) God's wisdom is His infinite and perfect understanding by which He orders and governs all things according to His holy purposes and for His glory.

iii) God perfectly orders all things toward His appointed end, for His glory.

b) Wisdom is a **divine revelation**. Job 28:20-28; Prov 2:6; Dan 2:20-23 1Cor 2:6-13; Col 2:2-3; James 1:5

i) God proclaims, and reveals, His wisdom to mankind.

ii) Yes, the wisdom of God's secret will is a mystery to fallen man. Deut 29:29; Job 11:7-9; Eccl 8:16-17 Is 55:8-9; Rom 11:33-36; 1Cor 2:14

iii) But the basics of how to saved and live are very clear, as directly taught in today's sermon text. Deut 30:11-14; Ps 119:105,130 Mic 6:8; Acts 16:30-31 2Tim 3:15-17; Titus 2:11-14

iv) Thus, there can be no excuses among fallen men. Ps 19:1-4; Rom 1:18-23; 2:14-15

c) Above all, wisdom *is* **Jesus Christ**. Matt 23:34; Luke 11:49; John 1:1-3; 3:36 John 14:6; 1Cor 1:24,30; Col 1:16-17; 2:3

i) Wisdom in Proverbs is the preincarnate Christ.

- The eternal Word of God.
- By Whom God the Father spoke the world into creation.

ii) Especially see: Proverbs 8:22-23,27-30,35-36, where wisdom clearly is Jesus Christ.

iii) God's wisdom is personified in the OT with the fictional poetic character of Sophia.

iv) With the incarnation wisdom is ultimately revealed and fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Wisdom Speaks Clearly

1) The atheist, the secularist, and others who are foolish believe God has not spoken with clarity, or even that God's existence is not clear. Ps 14:1; 19:1-4 Is 45:19; Rom 1:18-23 1Cor 1:18-25; 2Cor 4:3-4

   a) This is directly contrary to the Bible.

   b) But all too often foolish Christians believe the unbeliever instead of the word of God.

2) Our sermon text today, and in many other places, clearly teaches: God has spoken with clarity. Deut 30:11-14; Ps 19:7-11; 119:105,130 Is 45:19; John 20:30-31; 2Tim 3:15-17

3) How does God make His wisdom known to mankind? Several ways:

   a) Through **Creation** (General Revelation): The fact there is a creation clearly shows there is a Creator. Job 12:7-10; Ps 19:1-4; Is 40:26 Acts 17:24-28; Rom 1:19-20; Heb 3:4

   b) Through **Conscience**: We are made in the image of God and He has put His law in our hearts. Gen 1:26-27; Prov 20:27; Rom 1:19-21 Rom 2:14-15; 2Cor 4:2; 1Tim 1:5

      i) Even though fools ignore and suppress it, it still creeps out.

      ii) Why does a thief complain when you steal from him?

   c) Through the **Ministry of the Word** (Special Revelation): God directly reveals His wisdom, commandments, and Gospel . Ps 19:7-11; 119:98-100 Deut 6:6-7; Neh 8:1-8 Rom 10:14-17; 2Tim 3:15-17

      i) God directly gave His Word in biblical times and the revelation given to the prophets and apostles is now found in God's written word, the Holy Scriptures.

      ii) And the church raises up pastors, elders, and evangelists, to proclaim His word.

      iii) That is why our Puritan forefathers call a church – A public house of worship, and put it on the central part of the town green.

      iv) Let alone the words and witness of all Christians to their neighbors, such as to their spouses, children, friends, co-workers, etc.

   d) Also, **godliness** simply works, through God's common grace by His Spirit. Ps 1:1-3; Prov 3:1-8; Matt 5:45 Gal 5:22-23; 1Tim 4:7-8; Titus 2:11-14

      i) Only Christianity is internally consistent and corresponds to reality.

      ii) As history testifies too.

      iii) The good works of the saints are a powerful witness. Matt 5:16; John 13:34-35; Phil 2:14-16 Titus 2:7-10; 1Pet 2:12; 3:1-2

      iv) And when the non-believer, whether an individual or collectively, follows God's Law, there is earthly blessings. (e.g. A non-Christian society that puts value in the family will do better than a non-Christian society that tries to destroy the family.)

Simpletons, Fools & Scoffers – Proverbs 1:22

1) The problem is not with the message or the messenger.
    a) The problem is with the audience.
    b) They are simpletons, fools and scoffers.
    c) Proverbs 1:22a – "*How long, O naive ones* (literally "simpletons"), *will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing and fools hate knowledge?*"

2) A **simpleton** is someone who is **simple**, someone who is stupid, which is a sin.
    a) Being "simple" describes a person that is easily deceived or persuaded, who shows a lack of wisdom, understanding, and discernment. Prov 1:4,22; 7:7; 9:4-6 Prov 14:15; 22:3 Rom 16:17-19; 1Cor 14:20
        i) The 1828 Webster's definition of a "simpleton" is: "A silly person; a person of weak intellect; a trifler (one who focuses on the trivial); a foolish person."
        ii) Of course, we are not talking about those who do not have the capacity, like someone mentally disabled. They receive charity.
    b) We are not talking about being a scholar or an academic.
    c) But remember: Knowledge, understanding, wisdom, etc. are not just about having information/data!
        i) Again, remember Proverb's thesis statement!
        ii) Proverbs 1:7 – "*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*"
    d) To say "I'm just a simple man" as an excuse not to seek after wisdom, which requires thinking, is laziness and a worship of the self.
    e) Living a simple life of humility, duty, faithfulness, contentment, while rejecting the lusts of this world (power, greed, influence, dominion, etc.) is a very godly and wise thing.[3]
    f) Being simple (i.e. a simpleton), those lazy of mind – reject wisdom.

3) A **fool**, in the general sense, is anyone who rejects wisdom and lives contrary to the truth, because wisdom and truth only come from God. Prov 1:7,22-23; 2:6 Ps 14:1; Rom 1:21-22 1Cor 1:20-25; James 1:5
    a) The fool in Proverbs 1:22, however, has the more narrow meaning of someone who stubbornly refuses instruction and despises knowledge, even when it is offered to him. Prov 1:7,22-33; 5:12-13 Prov 12:1; 15:5; 17:10 John 5:39-40
        i) So, all those who do not fear the Lord are fools in the broad sense.
        ii) But the militant atheist, even if he has a high IQ, is a fool in the narrow sense.
    b) Psalm 53:1 – "*The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God,' they are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice; There is no one who does good.*"
    c) The fool despises wisdom and instruction, which only comes from God.
        i) So, a famous scholar with a high IQ, who has spent his whole career studying wisdom, but does not fear the Lord, is a fool.
        ii) Just look at the state of our modern universities.

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[3] Ps 37:16; 62:10; 131:1-2; Prov 13:7; 15:16-17; 16:8; 17:1; 19:1; 23:4-5; 28:6; 30:7-9; Eccl 4:6; Matt 6:25-34; Luke 12:15; 1Thes 4:11-12; 1Tim 6:6-8.

4) A **scoffer** is an arrogant, contemptuous person, who mocks God, ridicules righteousness, and despises correction. Prov 1:22; 9:7-8; 15:12; 21:24 Ps 1:1; 2Pet 3:3-4

   a) The simpleton lacks discernment because he is lazy.

      i) The fool stubbornly rejects wisdom.

      ii) The scoffer openly mocks wisdom and those who follow it.

   b) The scoffer is truly a person whose heart is black and cold.

   c) All these sins are grave and bring damnation because they reject wisdom.

   d) But the scoffer is portrayed as the most hardened and resistant to correction.

5) If you do not love and pursue wisdom, you hate Christ. Prov 1:7,29; 8:32-36; John 8:42-47 John 14:21-24; 1Cor 1:24,30; Col 2:2-3

   a) The beginning of wisdom is to fear the Lord.

   b) It is to desire and pursue (like a young man going after a fair and godly woman) God's ways as taught in His word.

   c) It is to know, believe, daily follow and rest in Christ and His work on the cross.

Repentance – Proverbs 1:23

1) Sophia, Lady Wisdom, cries out: "*Turn to my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you*."- Proverbs 1:23

2) One of the first requirements of seeking after wisdom is repentance. Prov 1:22-23; 9:6,10; Mark 1:14-15 Acts 20:21; 1Cor 3:18; James 4:7-10

   a) To understand how incredibly foolish we really are.

   b) To turn away from sin, the world (and its mistress Folly), Satan and yourself and turn to, and trust in, Christ. Prov 1:23; 3:1-10; John 14:16-17,23-26; 16:33

3) Note, the promise is not that you will necessarily be successful in this life.

   a) Though living a wise and godly life can bring worldly blessings.

   b) The Promise is that Wisdom HIMSELF, Christ, will give you His Spirit, His forgiveness, and make His word known and dwell in you.

4) That is why we do the Lord's Supper weekly.

5) 1Corinthians 1:30-31 – "*But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.'*"

6) Proverbs 9:1-5 – "*Wisdom* (Sophia) *has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars; She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; She has also set her table; She has sent out her maidens, she calls from the tops of the heights of the city: Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks understanding she says, 'Come, eat of my food and drink of the wine I have mixed.'*"