

# REFORMED CHURCH CLANWILLIAM : SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER 2012 MORNING SERVICE

**Sing before:** Psalm 25:8

*Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:*

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Psalm 33:1, 9

**Confession of faith:** Apostolic

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into Hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, a holy universal Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting

**Amen.**

*After the reading of the Law we confess our guilt and pray for forgiveness and a new life before God with Psalm 40:4*

Law

Psalm: 40:4

**Prayer:**

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

**Amen**

Scripture versification 31:1, 2

**Scripture reading:** Revelation 6

**Scripture text:** Revelation 6:2

**And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.**

(Revelation 6:2)

The first four seals were opened and the thud of hooves of four horses started thundering over the earth.

- The color of each horse and the task of its rider proclaim/symbolize/represent a different aspect/facet of the final history of the world.
- With the take off of each horse on its course through time the Lord reveals His victory over the powers of hell as they were established in the world and its his history.
- The Lord does this by proclaiming victory and by using wars and disasters which are represented by the different-colored horses, just like the night visions of the prophet Zechariah, are being used (Zech. 1 : 8 - 17; 6 : 1 - 8; Zech. 1 : 10 v.v.).

There is rather a difference between the visions of the horses which Zechariah saw and those which the Lord revealed here to John. In Zechariah the struggle was first revealed after which victory followed. Revelation 6 first indicates the victory and thereafter the means through which and the ways by which the Gospel gained its victory.

**Let us look together at our history, as here described by the Lord.**

1. **The White Horse.**
2. **The Red Horse.**
3. **The Black Horse.**
4. **The Pale-coloured Horse.**
5. **We follow the Rider on the white horse**

#### 1. **The White Horse.**

The Lamb has now received the scroll.

- It was not only a process of handing over so that He could keep it to Himself.
- Also not only to be read from.

The decrees of God should be ordained. **The Lamb received the scroll as to make the contents of it happen.**

Therefore we see how He received the scroll and opened the first seal.

Meanwhile the four living creatures stood around the throne.

- At first they had honored and praised God together with the elders and the angels and all living beings in the universe.
- Now we see that they take part in the opening of the seals.

The following question arises: Who were these four living creatures?

- The four living creatures are the representatives of all and everything living in creation.
- The number, four, is a symbolic number of the earth - think about the four wind directions in the same relation/connection.

This is why the Lord uses them here to fulfil the first four seals.

- Each time one of the first four seals was opened, they each called in turn: Come!
- It is not only a **command**, it is also a **prayer** from the earth for the fulfillment of the council of redemption of the Lord.
- The fact that their voices sounded like thunder is to say that one should hear therein the voices of everything and everyone on earth.

The first living creature called: Come! (or: Come out!) The meaning is not that John should have gone and have a look at what was in the scroll.

- It is more probable that the living creature was giving a command to the white horse and its rider to go out and to do what they should.
- It was a call for the fulfillment of the Will of God.

Take note that each time John saw the horse and its rider, it was only after the command had been given.

You should also remember that the horse has a specific meaning in the Bible - the same as in the Old Testament.

- The horse is the symbol of war.
- In the night visions of Zechariah the horses were straining at the bridles to run with their chariots over the earth when they were released.

The color of the horses also shows the nature of work that their riders are to administer.

- The first horse is white.
- White is the color of victory (19: 11) (Faithful and True).

To this rider a crown was given: **a crown of victory.**

- This was in advance a **sign of his victory.**
- In a certain sense he already had victory even before He rode away on his horse into the History of the world.
- Therefore he had already been **crowned as victor** before he set out.

In this event the revelation of God **emphasizes the victory** as strong as possible.

But in this event God also reveals His dispensation. **God predestinates /determines the victory.** .

The rider carried a bow. He went out to strike out at what was appearing in his field of vision.

- The rider's weapon is the Gospel of redemption in Jesus Christ, who goes all over the earth to enter people and to win them for Jesus Christ.

- Although the victory is gained by means of a weapon of war, the safety/protection of the believer is for that very reason, therein revealed.

## 2. The red horse

What would one expect after the victory of Jesus Christ? Glory maybe? No! The second seal was opened.

The second living creature called: Come! or Go out!

After this command there appeared again a rider on a horse.

- This is the first henchman of the victorious rider and his horse.
- This red rider goes out to kill and to perturb/upset all peace.

The horse and its rider are destined for war and bloodshed.

- He has to remove all peace from the earth/world.
- This rider carries a sword. Violence should break loose. People should kill each other.
- Therefore the Lord does not give peace on earth after the victory of Jesus Christ over death.

This vision pictures something of the church history, especially as we find it revealed in the Bible itself. In the Old Testament the people of the church were continuously quarreling among themselves.

- There were always disagreement and discontent, which lead to war and the death of many people. Think about the history in the time of David, and the rebellion of Absalom.
- Earlier we have the example of Korah, Dathan and Abiram and the deaths associated with this. Think of the stress and tension in the time of the apostle Paul, caused by the apostle Peter in the churches of Galatia.

The church of the Lord had thus always carried the element of hatred with it among its members because of sin.

True is it that in the case of the red horse, war and killings among themselves are not only related to what happens in the church because the whole world and every person thereon are involved.

- **All the wars and bloodshed are heralds that are building up together to the great battle of the end: The Battle of Armageddon.**
- That is why we can see in our time the sound of the hooves of this ferocious horse over our world.

There are very few places where there aren't terrorists who set bombs and kill people.

- Just think of all the people being killed in our country.
- All over the world attempts are being made to carry out coup d'etats..
- Civil war is often found in our present day history.

One should remember at the appearance of this horse that the apostle Paul wrote that Satan was then thrown down to mangle everything in its way like a roaring lion.

- Therefore Jesus said Himself that He didn't come to bring peace, but to bring disruption - hostility.
- Malevolence and war brought by the red horse and its rider, is therefore the result of the triumph/victory of Jesus Christ.

Why is the second horse a war-horse? Shouldn't peace and stability set in after the victory?

- The answer is that after the victory of Jesus a new heaven and a new earth will come. There will be tranquility, peace and glory.
- **But this second horse will not run over the plains of the new earth. This horse runs through the history of this earth.**

This war-horse and its rider bring everything in readiness for the coming of the Lord on the clouds of heaven.

- He makes it clear that on this earth there is no perfect peace and tranquility.
- The victory of Jesus Christ brought Satan down to earth and here he behaves like a roaring lion and destroys everything which gets in his way.

Satan will have a last try at destroying everything which he can, and therefore there is so much violence.

- His violence is not only aimed at the church - in his terror he also maims himself: everyone is dissatisfied with each other, compare Matthew 10: 36 v.v. where it says your worst enemies will be members of your own family.

### 3. The black horse

The victory of Jesus Christ over all the powers of hell and the the world, is also evident in still another side of the world history.

After the third seal had been opened, a **black horse and its rider** were seen.

- This is the second henchman.
- Black is the colour of **hunger and worries**
- It is the color of **death and sorrow**.
- This horse and its rider continued the misery, which was brought about by the red horse.

The rider of this horse carried a pair of scales. The scales weighed out anxiety and fear over the people.

- He weighed out disaster.
- The most terrible disaster, which he weighs out, is price control, which brings about terrible and frightening results.
- Food becomes scarce. Not because there is no food, but because it becomes too expensive for some to buy.

The price for a litter of wheat is a day's wages

- . It is very easily applied to our currency of today. It is one day's salary.

One litter of wheat was just enough to make one bread.

- One will thus be able to buy only one bread with one day's salary.
- There will be no money for clothes nor a home and not even food for more than one person.
- Therefore many will die of hunger.

One will also be able to buy three litters of barley for a day's wages.

- This pictures the horror and misery into which people will fall.
- Barley was food for the animals and the poorest people used it to bake bread, and then they needed three litters of barley to bake one bread.
- The need and famine will be incalculable.

The pair of scales of the rider on the black horse measures unfairly, because not everybody goes hungry.

- There are the rich people who will handle the money power of the world. Thus there is written: But do not damage the olive-trees and the vineyards.
- The rich will live in luxury.
- These scales weigh in two extremities: luxury on the one side and famine on the other side. Everything or nothing.

We hear the sound of the hooves of this horse through our history. We all experience the results of the task of its rider on our own lives.

- Who doesn't know about inflation and devaluation of our money?
- Who hasn't heard of price raising and cost of living? Everyone experiences that one can buy less every few months.
- Many people loose their houses because they can't pay the installments anymore.
- Standards of living plunge.

In this case all of creation are involved, therefore this part is concluded by what sounded like a voice coming from among the four living creatures which announced the prices of wheat and barley. The four living creatures are the symbols of the earth with all life thereon.

#### 4. The pale-colored horse.

Together with those of the red horse and the black horse, the hooves of another horse sounded to proclaim the victory of Jesus Christ. The third henchman is the pale-colored horse and its rider.

- They carry death and the realm of the dead with them.
- They don't do anything different from the red and the black horse because they also **kill with the sword** like the red horse and its rider.
- The pale-colored horse and its rider also bring famine - like the black horse and its rider.

**They carry the violence of war and starvation of hunger still further.**

- There is also something new here, which intensifies the terror. **Killing by disease is added.**
- Here we have also the addition of wild animals, which strike down on the earth's people.
- This horse and its rider close the blanket of death over the earth.
- They proclaim clearly that everything has come to an end.

Against the victory of Jesus Christ no one or no force could keep up! Jesus defeated all powers and forces and executed his Judgement.

## 5. We follow the Rider on the white horse.

We are living in the times of the sound of the hooves of these horses thundering through our history.

We celebrate four events together - which we can't separate, although we can distinguish them.

- The white horse preaches the crucifixion, resurrection, ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit.
- All these matters are the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the ever-living God and King. The Almighty who has conquered and is now installing His Kingdom and preparing for His Second Coming.
- The cross of Golgotha had passed. The victory/triumph over death had passed. The ascension of Christ in His taking in His place as Ever-reigning had passed. The descent of the Holy Spirit had passed.
- Thus we are in two ways involved in the victory of Jesus Christ.
  - First we were won for Jesus Christ and His kingdom through the blood of atonement of Jesus.
    - The Holy Spirit worked the knowledge and assurance of this deliverance/redemption in our hearts and minds - He still does it every day.
    - This is the one part of His descent over the church.
- But together with this is the second part. We are now part of the victorious army.
  - Do we fight together against the devil? Do we fall under the hooves of the red and black and pale-colored horses, or do we ride as conquerors over sin with the armies on white horses?
  - Does the Holy Spirit impel us to live in such a manner that the Kingdom of God is also displayed in our obedience and worship? Are we part of the struggle for the King of all the ages?
  - Do we hear the command of God's Spirit to follow the Conqueror on the white horse in his foot/hoof prints?

We should see how great the grace of God is in this revelation. The red, black and pale-colored horses are all henchmen of the white horse.

John saw the white horse again later. We read about it in Revelations 19: 11.

**11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.**

**12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.**

**13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.**

**14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.**

(Revelation 19:11-14)

Take note that the white horse and it's Rider was no longer alone.

- The rider of this horse was still judging with justice and fighting his battles.
- At this stage the white horse and its rider wasn't alone anymore, because the armies of heaven were following Him, all riding on white horses behind Him.
- As He fought battles and conquered, his armies of those who had been redeemed, grew.

The only power is in the hands of Him who rides on the white horse.

- He is the Conqueror over History.
- He also reigns in and over the church.
- He also governs us with his Spirit and with his Word.

See, listen and follow with the haste and eagerness of one who has been redeemed.

**Amen.**

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 147:4

Confession of faith: Brother Eric Clack

Psalm 134:4

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

**Amen**

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 Scripture Modern King James Version