



NEELSVILLE
P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

NPC strives to be an intercultural church of believers in Jesus Christ who delight to share the good news in Germantown and beyond.

SERMON SERIES

Did Jesus Really Say That?

THE CHALLENGING
TEACHINGS
OF JESUS



Sunday, May 31, 2026 – 10:45am Worship

Welcome to Neelsville!

Welcome to Neelsville Presbyterian Church! We are so thrilled that you are visiting with us today. We are a church that is growing more and more captivated by Jesus Christ, delighting to glorify and serve Him in every area of our lives. Wherever you are in your walk with God, we have resources for you and your family. Please contact me if you have any questions or desire additional information. Thanks for visiting and I hope you experience the welcome of Christ during your time with us!

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

pastorjeff@neelsville.org

First Time Here?

We're so glad you've joined us! Please fill out a green guest card in the pew and hand it to a Welcome Team member for a small gift. They can help connect you with our various ministries and answer any questions you may have.

When you join us again, please take a moment each Sunday to sign in with our Welcome Team. This helps us to stay connected and to reach out to ensure you are well if we haven't seen you in a while.

Tips for Families

We are a church who believes in the value of families worshipping together, and we welcome the wiggles & giggles of little ones in the pews.

Look for the  station outside the Sanctuary to learn more about...

- **Nursery Care** – Available for children 2 years and under during the service.
- **Worship & Praise Zone** – Children ages 3 – 3rd grade are invited to a Bible Story & crafts during the sermon. Please check-in before worship at the kids station.
- **Worship Activity Bags** – Feel free to grab one for your child to use during the service.

Join us for Classes for All Ages at 9:30am Sunday. We have offerings for everyone from preschoolers to adults. Learn more on page 10.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

CCLI License 1534861

***Prayer of Adoration**

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

Our Pastor leads a prayer in which we lift our hearts to praise God for who He is and to express our deep love for Him.

***Praise Song**

Come Unto Jesus

Kauflin/Story/Merker

Come unto Jesus all you who are weary.
Come to the mercy seat, fervently kneel.
Here, bring your wounded hearts, broken and needy.
Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.

Joy of the comfortless, Light for the straying,
Hope of the penitent, Peace in our strife.
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying
My yoke is easy, my burden is light.

Chorus 1: Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.
Lay down your burdens, He is enough.
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.

Come taste the Bread of Life, broken for sinners.
Drink from the cup of His promise made sure.
Feast at His table as sons and as daughters.
Grace overflowing is yours evermore. (*Chorus*)

Come, now and follow Him, this life forsaking.
All that was gain, count as nothing but loss.
Trade all this world for His kingdom unfading.
Come unto Jesus, take up your cross.

Come unto Jesus, take up your cross.
Life everlasting He offers to us.

Chorus 2: Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.
Lay down your burdens, He is enough.
Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.
Lay down your burdens, He is enough.
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love. (*Chorus 1*)

Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.

© 2023 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing CCLI License #1534861

Confession of Sin (unison)

Seeing how great and good God is, we are reminded that we have, more often than we wish, failed to live as God has designed.

Gracious Lord, You call us to deny ourselves, yet we confess how often we live for our own comfort and control. You call us to take up our cross, yet we avoid sacrifice and resist obedience when it costs us. You call us to follow You, yet we chase after the world's approval and cling to things that cannot save. Forgive us for the ways we shrink back from the path of discipleship. Forgive us for seeking to save our lives on our own terms. Turn our hearts again to Christ, that we may find life in Him alone. Amen.

Silent Confession

Written words can never reflect exactly what is in each individual's heart, so this is a time for us to consider our own waywardness and speak it silently to God.

*Assurance of Pardon

When we confess our sins, seeking God's help to turn away from them, we are assured that He will extend grace, mercy and forgiveness. He is willing to do this because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross.

Leader: Hear the good news! Jesus Christ did not call us to a path He Himself refused to walk. He denied Himself for us. He took up the cross for us. He laid down His life so that we might find ours in Him. Because of His finished work, all who trust in Him are forgiven, restored, and made new. In Christ, you have life—true life, eternal life, abundant life.

In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

O Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;
 Be Thou forever near me, My Master and my friend;
 I shall not fear the battle If Thou art by my side,
 Nor wander from the pathway If Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near;
 I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear;
 My foes are ever near me, Around me and within;
 But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer And shield my soul from sin.
 O let me hear Thee speaking In accents clear and still,
 Above the storms of passion, The murmurs of self-will;
 O speak to reassure me, To hasten or control;
 O speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised To all who follow Thee
 That where Thou art in glory There shall Thy servant be;
 And, Jesus, I have promised To serve Thee to the end;
 O give me grace to follow, My Master and my friend.

CCLI License 1534861

Time of Offering

*We have an opportunity to give financially to support the work of the local and global church, offering what we are able with cheerful hearts, grateful for God's blessings. Giving also includes generously sharing our time and talents to care for one another and the community around us. **Please take the plate and pass it down the pew to the usher. To give online, scan the QR code.***



Offertory

I Set My Hope (Getty/Boswell/Papa)

Natalia Suwuh Angkuw
 Ulung Tanoto

"Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us." – Martin Luther

*Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

A song of praise used by Christians since the early 18th century.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said: "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do... for your Father know what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:"

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Melissa Evans

On alternate Sundays, the young children receive a blessing or they gather to hear a mini-message, often sharing a point from the upcoming sermon in a relational way with the children.

Children ages 3-3rd grade will be dismissed to the Worship & Praise Zone following the message.

Hymn

Jesus, Strong and Kind
(Buchanan/Robinson/Farren/Thompson)

#362

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to him.

Chorus: For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.

© 2019 CityAlight Music (Admin. by Integrity Music) CCLI License # 1534861

Scripture Reading

Luke 9:23-27

Please turn in the pew Bible to page 867 or refer to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

Deny Yourself and Take Up Your Cross

Pastor Jeff

A pastor or an elder of the church gives this extended message explaining the scripture passage, what it meant to the original readers, and how it applies to us today. Our pastor often preaches through a book of the Bible, using a selection of verses each week.

Space for Sermon Notes is provided on page 8.

*Praise Song

Lead Me to the Cross

Ligertwood

Savior, I come, quiet my soul; Remember redemption's hill
Where Your blood was spilled for my ransom.
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.

Chorus: Lead me to the cross where Your love poured out.
Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.

Rid me of myself, I belong to You.
Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.

You were as I, tempted and tried, human.
The Word became flesh, bore my sin in death; now, You're risen.
Everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss. (*Chorus*)

Bridge: To Your heart, to Your heart, lead me to Your heart, lead me to Your heart. (*Chorus 2x*)

© 2006 Hillsong Music Publishing Australia CCLI License 1534861

***Charge & Benediction**

The pastor gives a charge to go into the world in Jesus' name, living and serving in ways that give witness to God's love. He then raises his hands, giving a blessing for the congregation to receive.

***Postlude**

Lead Me to the Cross

Ligertwood

We close with another instrumental piece, carrying praise to God out of the church and into the world.

Did Jesus Really Say That? The Challenging Teachings of Jesus

Big Idea: Because Jesus gave His life to save us, He calls us to follow Him by dying to ourselves daily so that we may find true life in Him.

- The _____ of Discipleship: Deny Yourself (v. 23a)

Jesus calls us to dethrone self and submit wholly to Him.

- The _____ of Discipleship: Take Up Your Cross Daily (v. 23b)

Following Christ means embracing daily obedience, even when costly.

- The _____ of Discipleship: Lose Your Life to Save It (v. 24)

We find true life only when we surrender our lives to Christ.

- The _____ of Discipleship: Don't Trade Your Soul (vv. 25–26)

Worldly gain is worthless if it costs us our soul and allegiance to Christ.

- The _____ of Discipleship: A Glimpse of Glory (v. 27)

Jesus promises that the path of the cross leads to the kingdom and glory.

Next Week: *Let the Dead Bury the Dead* (Luke 9:57-60)

²³ And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God.”

Something to think about . . .

Use these questions for your own personal reflection and study at home.

1. Where do you most feel the tension between self-rule and Christ’s rule in your daily life?
2. What does “denying yourself and taking up your cross daily” look like in your current season of relationships, work, habits, or fears?
3. In what ways do you try to “save” your life today and how does Jesus expose the emptiness of those attempts?
4. What worldly gains most tempt you to trade away deeper allegiance to Christ?
5. How does seeing Christ’s own self-denial and cross-bearing encourage you to follow Him with joy rather than fear?

Grow and Go with Us! _____

Opportunities are offered for all ages, to grow in our relationship with God, impacting our lives.

Next Generation Ministry

👉 **June 14 will be the last day of Sunday School for both NPC Kids and Students before they break for the summer.**



Ages: Birth – 5th grade

Contact: kids@neelsville.org

Sunday School at 9:30am (Ed Wing for PreK - 5th Grade)



👉 **VBS Registration is filling up!** Register today at this QR code.



Ages: 6th – 12th grade

Contact: students@neelsville.org

Sunday School at 9:30am (Youth Room / Andrew Small Room)

Wednesday Night Youth Group meets at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Youth Group will continue to meet throughout the summer.

Adult Ministry

Join a class or small group that meets throughout the week!

Scan the QR code for more details and descriptions.



Sundays at 9:15am – Life Lessons from 1&2 Peter (Parlor)

Contact: Adam Condrick (acondrick@segalco.com)

Sundays at 9:30am – Did Jesus Really Say That? (Room 1)

Contact: Pastor Jeff (pastorjeff@neelsville.org)

Sundays at 9:30am – The Essentials of the Faith (Conf Rm & Online)

Contacts: Peter Muriuki & Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com)

Sundays at 7:00pm – Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Contact: Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com)

Wednesdays at 7:00pm – Women’s Bible Study (Online)

Contact: Kim Evans & Joanne Wilson (joannelwilson@gmail.com)

Wednesdays at 7:15pm – Men’s Bible Study on Psalms (Online)

Contact: Brian Farrell (bpf3356@gmail.com)

Fridays at 9:30am – Women’s Bible Study on Joshua (Parlor)

Contact: Sue Farrell (bfarrell01@aol.com)

This Week at Neelsville

More details of this week's schedule and upcoming events can be found in our weekly e-letter. Scan this QR code for last Friday's edition.



Sunday 5/31

Monday 6/1

Tuesday 6/2

Wednesday 6/3	7:00pm	Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00pm	Women's Bible Study – <i>Sermon on the Mount</i> (Online)
	7:15pm	Men's Bible Study – <i>Psalms: Prayers of the Heart</i> (Online)
	7:15pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday 6/4

Friday 6/5	9:30am	Women's Bible Study – <i>Joshua</i> (Parlor)
------------	--------	--

Saturday 6/6	10:00am	Women's Tea in England (Fellowship Hall)
--------------	----------------	---

Sunday 6/7	9:15am	Sunday Morning Small Group – <i>Life Lessons</i> (Parlor)
	9:30am	Classes for All Ages!
	10:45am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Financial Update

	April Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$ 59.3 K	\$ 264.8 K	\$ 253.1 K	\$ 827.9 K
Expenses (\$K)	\$ 68.4 K	\$ 268.7 K	\$ 294.5 K	\$ 859.4 K



neelsville.org/give

Excess Income/Expenses	-\$ 9.1 K	-\$ 4.0 K
-----------------------------------	-----------	-----------

Announcements

Please send your announcements to office@neelsville.org by Tuesday at Noon for next week's bulletin & e-letter.

Mark your calendars for a Congregational Meeting on Sun 6/14 after Worship in the Fellowship Hall! Lunch is provided. As part of our *Cultivating Flourishing Congregations* initiative, we will be focusing on sharing memories from our years at NPC and discussing how those moments have shaped us as a church. Come ready to share specific stories that have been important to you!

In 2 weeks, we will celebrate and bless our NPC graduates! If your child is graduating this year from high school or college, please send to NPC Students (students@neelsville.org) his/her full name, a baby picture and recent picture, name of the school they are graduating from, and if a college graduate, their major(s). **Photo and info are due TOMORROW, MON 6/1.**

Our NPC Food Pantry needs donations to serve our neighbors in need! Please drop off your canned and boxed nonperishable items in the Narthex bin. **Specific needs: pasta, rice, canned tuna & chicken, canned fruit, canned corn & mixed vegetables, small jars of peanut butter, mac & cheese, boxed cereal, cheese or pb crackers, granola bars.** Contact Michelle Nelson with questions (office@neelsville.org) Thank you!

Women's Tea in England will take place THIS SAT 6/6 from 10am to 12:30pm. We will enjoy English cuisine and culture and fellowship together! Any questions or if you want to help, contact Gerry Davis (gerry.davis@outlook.com) or Cathy Brown (ccbrown8488@gmail.com).

NPC Ladies! Let's get together for lunch after church NEXT Sunday 6/7! We will meet at 12:30-ish at **Panera (Seneca Meadows)** for a nice time of fellowship. Bring a friend!

Every generation can invest in the next! We are seeking a few more Vacation Bible School volunteers who want to help behind-the-scenes in shopping, organizing, prepping, & praying. VBS decoration days are scheduled for late July and early August so much of the work can be done on your own time before then. Connect with Pastor SeongSu or Melissa Evans for a list of tasks.

NPC will host a Red Cross Blood Drive in memory of Hugh Smith on Sat 6/20 from 9am – 1:30pm. Visit redcrossblood.org and search for "NeelsvillePresbyterian" (no spaces) to sign up to support this life-giving program. Questions? Contact Karen Clark at 2karclark@gmail.com. You can also sign up using this QR Code



Sign up now as a Vacation Bible School participant August 3-7 from 9am-12pm. Registration is flourishing and we're now 2/3 full! The Rainforest Falls theme provides beautiful scenery to remind us of God's glorious creation. While we explore the nature of God, we're also pointing our campers to living as a follower of Christ through praise songs, scripture lessons, recreational games, hands-on science, and more! **Register your children through the QR Code.**



Stay Connected with Neelsville

CONTACT INFO

Questions?

office@neelsville.org

Website

www.neelsville.org

Phone

301-972-3916

Office Hours

Tues-Thurs 10am-4pm

Mon & Fri 10am-1pm

PRAYER REQUESTS

Email office@neelsville.org to join the prayer chain.



E-LETTER SIGNUP

The Weekly Neelsville News is delivered each Friday at 10am.



MINISTRY STAFF

Rev. Jeffrey Rickett – *Lead Pastor*

pastorjeff@neelsville.org

Rev. SeongSu Hong – *Pastor of Next Generation Ministries*

seongsu@neelsville.org

Ulung Tanoto – *Director of Worship & Music*

ulung@neelsville.com

Michelle Nelson – *Director of Ministry Support*

office@neelsville.org

Melissa Evans – *Children's Coordinator*

melissa@neelsville.org

LAY LEADERSHIP

Elders – *Oversee the spiritual health of the congregation as well as the congregation's faithfulness to God's mission.*

Clerk of Session – Eileen Bauer

session@neelsville.org

Deacons – *Nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation.*

Co-Moderators – Vangie Fletcher, Carol Harris, & Lynn Kroah

deacons@neelsville.org

Trustees – *Provide care and oversight for Neelsville's buildings and grounds.*

Moderator – Jason Craft

trustees@neelsville.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

[Facebook.com/neelsville](https://www.facebook.com/neelsville)



Instagram

[@neelsvillechurch](https://www.instagram.com/neelsvillechurch)