



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, July 26, 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.

Order of Service

Corporate worship is our shared surrender to Jesus' costly call. As we gather for corporate worship, we deny ourselves, seek His Kingdom above all, reconcile with one another, and submit to His hard but life-giving words. Corporate worship transforms us into people shaped by the cross-learning together to follow the One who calls us to lose our lives and find them in Him.

– *Pastor Jeffrey Rickett*

Prelude	<i>The Perfect Wisdom of Our God</i> (Getty/Townend)	Ulung Tanoto
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We invite you to let the music quiet your mind and heart to prepare for worship.

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

* = please rise if you are able

***Call to Worship** Psalm 145:17; 96:9

God's words in scripture remind us that He is the one who calls us to gather.

Leader: Beloved of God, come and lift your eyes to the One who calls us into His holiness. The Psalmist declares, “The Lord is righteous in all His ways and faithful in all He does.” And again, “Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth.”

All: We come to the God whose perfection is beauty, whose holiness is love, whose righteousness is our refuge.

Leader: Our Lord Jesus calls us, “Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Not to crush us, but to draw us into His life—His mercy, His wholeness, His steadfast love.

All: We come to worship the God who perfects His people through grace. We come to behold His glory and rest in His faithfulness.

[illegible]

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.

Chorus: How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!
And all will see how great, how great is our God!

And age to age he stands, and time is in his hands;
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, Three in One, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb. (*Chorus*)

Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing: How great is our God!
Name above all names, worthy of all praise.
My heart will sing: How great is our God! (*Chorus*)

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee
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***Prayer of Adoration**

Pastor Jeff

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.

***Hymn**

I Need Thee Every Hour (Hawks/Lowry/Kohl/Williams)

#619

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

Chorus: I need Thee, O I need Thee; Every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh. (*Chorus 2x*)

Bridge: In ev'ry moment, for my next breath,
from where I'm standing, till my next step,
I know You're with me. My closest Friend,
From the beginning until the end.
In ev'ry season, through ev'ry storm,
When chaos comes, when oceans roar,
You are my anchor, my only hope.
I place my trust in You alone. (*Chorus 2x*)

Bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

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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.

Holy and perfect God, You call us to be perfect as You are perfect—to love as You love, to walk in Your ways, to reflect Your holiness in all we do. We confess that our hearts are divided, our love is inconsistent, and our obedience is incomplete. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves. We have turned from Your ways and trusted in our own strength. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Renew us by Your steadfast love. Perfect us by Your grace. Shape us by Your Spirit into the likeness of Your Son, in whom our hope and righteousness rest. 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. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross.

Leader: Hear the good news from the Psalms: *"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love."* *"He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities."* In Christ, the perfection God requires is the perfection God provides. His righteousness covers you. His mercy restores you. His Spirit renews you. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, welcomed, and made whole.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

The Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar

Since the earliest years when disciples gathered, Christians have formulated statements to summarize what we believe. These creeds help remind us of the richness of our faith and can help answer the questions of those who may be wondering about Christianity.

The Church is deeply aware that its central emphasis throughout must be: Jesus Christ, The Son of God, is Lord and Savior.

It confesses this faith in communion with the Christian Church throughout the world. In this faith the Church worships the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit; one God in Trinity.

Its faith is in Almighty God, Father of Jesus Christ, and Father of all men in Jesus Christ. He is the Creator and Ruler of the universe, who sustains and provides for our lives in His everlasting love. He is the holy God.

Its faith is in Jesus Christ, the Lord , the only–begotten Son of God. There is one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all. Jesus alone is our hope and through him we await the final victory.

It is a faith in the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of the Father and the Son. He brings about faith unto the new birth through which salvation is received. He is the teacher, who explains God’s word to us and he enables us to bring forth good works to the glory of God.

And God’s people said: Amen!

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

Mercy (Brown/Bowie/Ingram)

Worship Team

“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

Pastor Dorothy Hood

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 Loves Me
(Warner/Bradbury)

#360

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.

Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:43-48

Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 811 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

Be Perfect

Pastor Dorothy Hood

Pastor Dorothy Hood is visiting from Chesapeake, VA where she and her husband planted Sojourners Church in November 2024 together with their children – Caroline, Keith, and Sarah Beth. One of the greatest joys of the church plant has been seeing spiritually hungry children and youth eagerly participate in church ministries.

Space for Sermon Notes is provided on page 8.

*Hymn

The Perfect Wisdom of Our God (Getty/Townend)

#297

The perfect wisdom of our God, revealed in all the universe:
All things created by His hand, and held together at His command.
He knows the mysteries of the seas, the secrets of the stars are His;
He guides the planets on their way, and turns the earth through another day.

The matchless wisdom of His ways, that mark the path of righteousness;
His word a lamp unto my feet, His Spirit teaching and guiding me.
And O the mystery of the cross, that God should suffer for the lost,
So that the fool might shame the wise, and all the glory might go to Christ!

O grant me wisdom from above, to pray for peace and cling to love,
And teach me humbly to receive the sun and rain of Your sovereignty.
Each strand of sorrow has a place within this tapestry of grace;
So through the trials I choose to say: "Your perfect will in Your perfect way."

Each strand of sorrow has a place Within this tapestry of grace;
So through the trials I choose to say: "Your perfect will in Your perfect way."

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*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**

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

After Worship Today!

VBS Decorating will take place in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and Welcome Center! Lunch is provided for volunteers.

Choir Rehearsal will begin at 12:30pm today in the Sanctuary! All are invited!

Did Jesus Really Say That? The Challenging Teachings of Jesus

Big idea: Jesus is the true Israel as He perfectly fulfilled the law, and He calls us to heart transformation as we live out the gospel we have received.

- A challenging teaching: “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect,” (Matt. 5:48)
- Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 5:17)
- Movement from outward obedience to heart transformation: Six Examples (Matt. 5:21-48)
- The heart of the gospel: Love (Matt. 5:43-48)
- Enacting God’s love through forgiveness

Next Week: *Son of Man Forgives Sin* (Luke 5:17-26)

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. Jesus said, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,” (Matt. 5:44). Jesus lived this out as He prayed for His persecutors who hung Him on the cross (Luke 23:34). What steps can I take this week to “love my enemy”? How does it change my heart toward them when I lift them up in prayer?
2. Forgiveness is at the core of the gospel. We are blessed to receive forgiveness, and we are invited to live out the gospel we believe by offering forgiveness, (Matt. 6:9-15). Who is someone I need to forgive?
3. In what area of my life am I succeeding in outward obedience, but in which my heart needs to catch up? How might I cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He gives me a new heart, (Ezekiel 36:26)?
4. In what area of my life am I stubbornly grasping onto my current way of living, instead of embracing the fullness of life that God wants for me? How can I better cooperate with the Holy Spirit this week as He seeks to transform me into the person God created me to be?
5. Jesus tells us, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect,” (Matt. 5:48). Take a moment to thank Jesus for being perfect, and for restoring us into a right relationship with the Father through His perfect obedience.

Grow and Go with Us! _____

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

Next Generation Ministry

👉 **NPC Kids and Students Sunday School is on break for the summer.**



Ages: Birth – 5th grade

Contact: kids@neelsville.org

👉 **VBS Registration update!**

Spaces are filled; however, if you missed out on enrolling early, reach out to Pastor SeongSu or Melissa be added to the waitlist.

Rainforest Falls VBS (Aug 3-7 at 9am-12pm explores the nature of God, pointing our campers to living as a follower of Christ through praise songs, scripture lessons, recreational games, hands-on science, and more!



Ages: 6th – 12th grade

Contact: students@neelsville.org

Wednesday Night Youth Group will continue to meet throughout the summer at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. ***Not mtg 7/29**

***On the 3rd Wednesday of each month**, Youth Group meets at 5:30pm for a service project.

Adult Ministry

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

Scan the QR code for more details and descriptions.



Sundays at 9:30am – 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)

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 7/26	12:00pm	VBS Decorating (Sanctuary/Narthex/Welcome Center)
	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Monday 7/27

Tuesday 7/28

Wednesday 7/29	10:30am – 5pm	Youth Trip to Harper's Ferry
	7:15pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday 7/30

Friday 7/31

Saturday 8/1	9:00am	VBS Decorating (Sanctuary/Narthex/Welcome Center)
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Sunday 8/2	9:30am	Adult Classes (Rm 1 and Conf Rm)
	10:45am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	12:30pm	VBS Decorating (Sanctuary/Narthex/Welcome Center)

Financial Update

	June Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$ 78.3 K	\$ 404.8 K	\$ 413.9 K	\$ 827.9 K
Expenses (\$K)	\$ 53.3 K	\$ 379.5 K	\$ 429.7 K	\$ 859.4 K
Difference	\$ 24.9 K	\$ 25.2 K		



neelsville.org/give

Footnote – Income for June includes payment from Camp Sonshine. Any extraordinary expenses paid out of prior designated/special funds, are excluded from these figures.

Announcements

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

Today we welcome Pastor Dorothy Hood from Sojourners Church in Chesapeake, VA! She and her husband, Brandon, planted the church in November 2024, together with their three children. Dorothy serves as the pastor of Sojourners, while Brandon is a key volunteer alongside his full-time ministry as a U.S. Navy chaplain. Their church exists to cultivate friendship with Jesus and their neighbors. **We will be taking a free-will offering for Sojourners TODAY. Checks should be made payable to St. Giles Presbyterian Church with a note in the memo that it's for Sojourners Church.**

Missions Prayer Support – In July we are praying for the Sons of Thunder Ministry in Zambia, which is feeding Africa physically and spiritually through the enabling of the Holy Spirit. They are sharing the gospel; running a medical clinic, lab, & maternity center; providing education and scholarships; teaching farming God's Way; and feeding the needy. We encourage you to pray for the success of these ministries. **Pray specifically for the medical ministry at Sons of Thunder farm in Zambia.** We pray for the staff of 40, for God's wisdom and guidance in their medical efforts. We pray for the hundreds of mothers that will give birth there this year, for safe deliveries. We pray for continued good relations and favor from the local regulatory officials.

Have a hand in VBS by joining us for two (maybe three) decorating days! Our team will meet TODAY after worship and THIS SAT 8/1 starting at 9am. Help transform Neelsville into Rainforest Falls so kids can engage with the beauty and nature of God. No experience necessary.

Reach the World Thru ESOL - Neelsville will again have ESOL classes beginning Sat, Sept 12 at 9-11am with over 100 students that register. **We are in need of a teacher for our beginner class and an administrator to be available 8:30-10am every other Saturday.** God is bringing people right to our door so that we can share His love and help them to see Him at work among us. Consider being a part of our ESOL program. Contact Joanne Wilson at joannelwilson@gmail.com to ask about any of these ways or other ways of ministering to our community.

NPC Ladies! Let's get together for lunch after church NEXT Sun, 8/2! We will meet at 12:30-ish at Panera (Seneca Meadows) for a nice time of fellowship. Bring a friend!

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

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