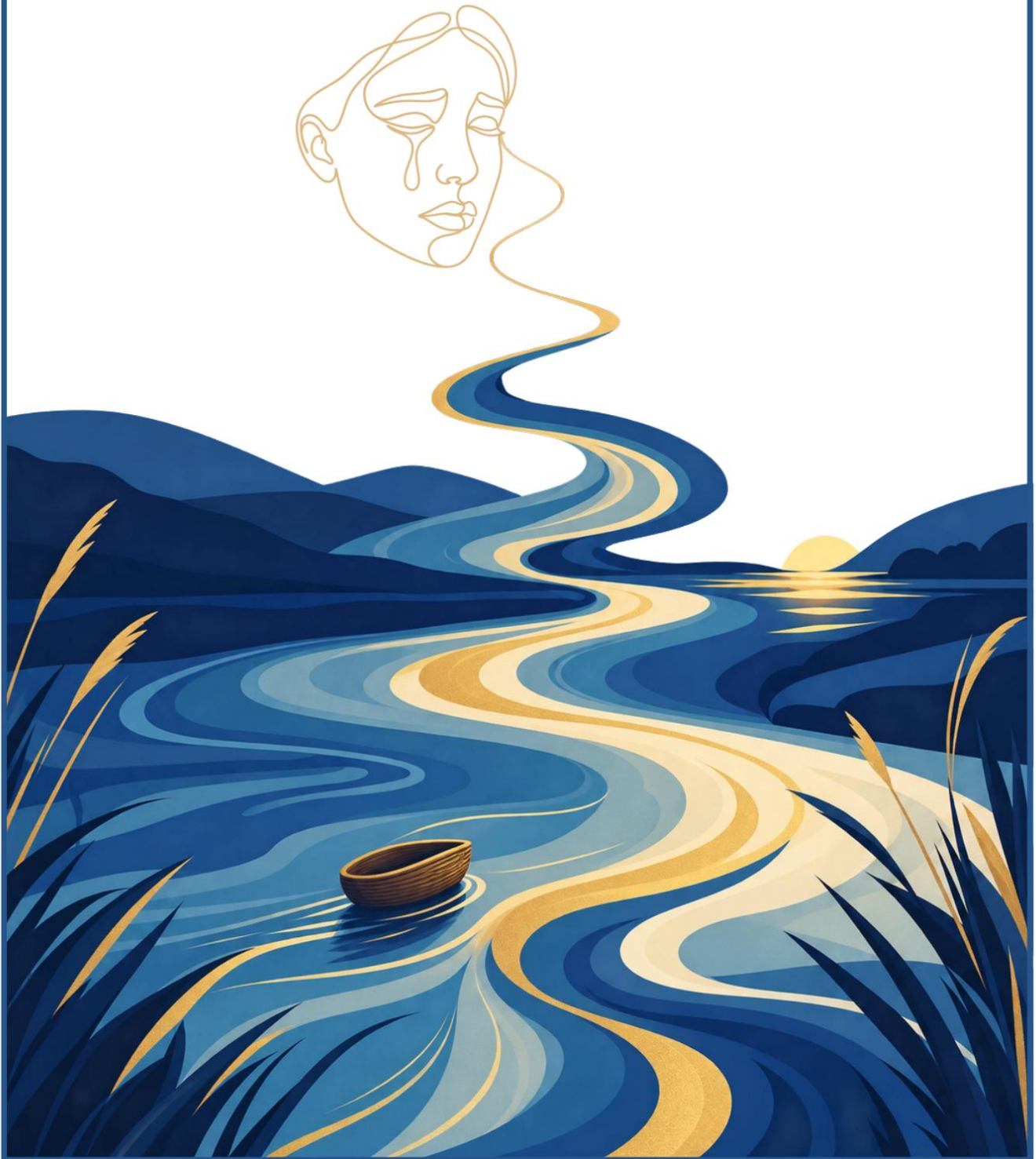


First Presbyterian Church Winchester, VA

Sermon Series: *Learning to Live as God's People*

"When God Hears the Cry"



**"SERVING CHRIST AND NEIGHBOR IN THE HEART OF
WINCHESTER AND BEYOND."**

When this symbol (✠) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

Ushers collect blue prayer card requests during the first hymn.

Friends, check in or sign up for our Friday newsletter using the back of the blue prayer card.

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Dr. Evan R. Smith

Richard Byess, Liturgist

The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as People of God

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

Walther

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 124)

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

We come to worship the God who holds us and will not let us go.

When the waters rise and the way before us seems uncertain, the Lord remains faithful.

We come remembering that we do not face the world alone.

The snare is broken, the way opens, and God’s people are set free.

We will place our hope in the Lord, whose mercy is stronger than all that threatens us.

Come, let us worship the Lord!

✠ **HYMN 307**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

✠ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Faithful God, we confess that fear can have too much power over us. We see what is wrong and convince ourselves that nothing can change. We protect our own comfort when courage is required, remain silent when others need our voices, and overlook the small opportunities you give us to choose what is good. Forgive us, O Lord. Open our eyes to those who need compassion, give us courage to do what is right, and teach us to trust that no act of faithfulness is ever wasted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence for personal confession

✠ **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Our help is in the name of the Lord, and our hope rests in the mercy of God.

In Jesus Christ, grace has come near.

Thanks be to God, whose mercy is greater than our sin.

God sees us, knows us, and meets us with a love that does not let us go.

We receive this grace with thankful hearts.

Hear and believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. We are renewed, restored, and set free to live with courage and compassion.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

✠ **GLORIA PATRI** [Hymn 581]

INTERGENERATIONAL MOMENT

*Afterward, Kindergarten and younger children may leave for Wee One's Worship in **Room 106**.*

✠ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

Friends, you are encouraged to pass the peace.

God Speaks to Us in Scripture, Preaching, and Song

MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

"I'll Walk with God" Dr. Mikayla Hatfield

Brodzsky

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 1:8-2:10, 23-25

SERMON "When God Hears the Cry"

HYMN 515

"I Come with Joy"

DOVE OF PEACE

The People of God Respond in Faith

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES *(leader)* Friends, our giving is an act of gratitude for what God has given us. It is also an act of worship. Just as we present our words in liturgy, song, and prayer to God, we present a portion of the fruit of our work to God.

OFFERTORY

"Take Time to be Holy"

Wells

✠ THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN 606, AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks
and praise...**

The Thanksgiving continues. . .

Leader: *[...the petitions conclude...]*

And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:

All: 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.

THE DISTRIBUTION

*Ushers will invite your row. Receive the bread, dip it in the chalice, and eat.
(If remaining seated, please wave or signal an usher for assistance.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world—because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen

<i>The People Depart to Serve</i>		
HYMN 39	“Great is Thy Faithfulness”	FAITHFULNESS
BENEDICTION		
POSTLUDE	“Cwn Rhondda”	J. Bert Carlson
USHERS	Dick Creasey, Lynn McCauley, Fred Gall, and Mark Schroeder	

In Christian Sympathy
Dorothy Joan Nicholas, 100, passed away on Sunday, August 30, 2026. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 2pm at First Presbyterian Church.
It is in grief that we mourn, and in hope that we rejoice in the resurrection to new life in Jesus Christ.

Returning to Sunday School & Rally Day “Meet the Teacher”
As we begin a new program year, youth and children’s families are invited to Fellowship Hall on September 13 at 9:45 a.m. for donut holes, a fun activity, and an opportunity to meet their teachers. On September 20, join us for a recap of the Youth Mission Trip. Sunday School curriculum for all ages will begin on October 4. Questions? Contact colleen@fpcwinc.org about youth and children’s Sunday School or evan@fpcwinc.org about adult Sunday School.

LAST CHANCE | Photo Taking Opportunity for the Directory on Sunday Sept. 20th
Pastor Evan will be taking photos for the directory between services and after the Sanctuary service on September 20th in the Chapel. First come, first served!

Chancel Choir Practice | Time and Location Update!
Rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m. Please note that rehearsals will now be held on Wednesdays rather than Thursdays. While the elevator is out of service, we’ll meet in the Chapel. All are welcome! Contact Brian Hobbs at choir@fpcwinc.org with any questions.

FPC Game Night | Wednesday, Sept. 23rd from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Bring a favorite game or play one we have here with FPC friends of all ages in Fellowship Hall. There will also be a game swap table so you can leave one in great condition and take one. Pizza will be provided, and you can bring your go-to snack to share. Questions? Contact: kelly@fpcwinc.org

Sermon Series | Learning to Live as God’s People
The story of Exodus is about more than escaping Egypt. God hears the cries of an enslaved people and sets them free. But freedom is only the beginning. Once Pharaoh is behind them, Israel must learn a whole new way of living. In the wilderness, God teaches them to trust one day at a time, to rest instead of endlessly produce, to remember who they are, and to depend on God when fear returns. Finally, at Mount Sinai, God gives them a way of life shaped not by Pharaoh’s world, but by worship, justice, faithfulness, and love of neighbor. Over seven weeks, we’ll follow Israel from slavery to freedom and discover that God’s work is not simply to set people free from what has held them captive, but to set them free for a new way of life.