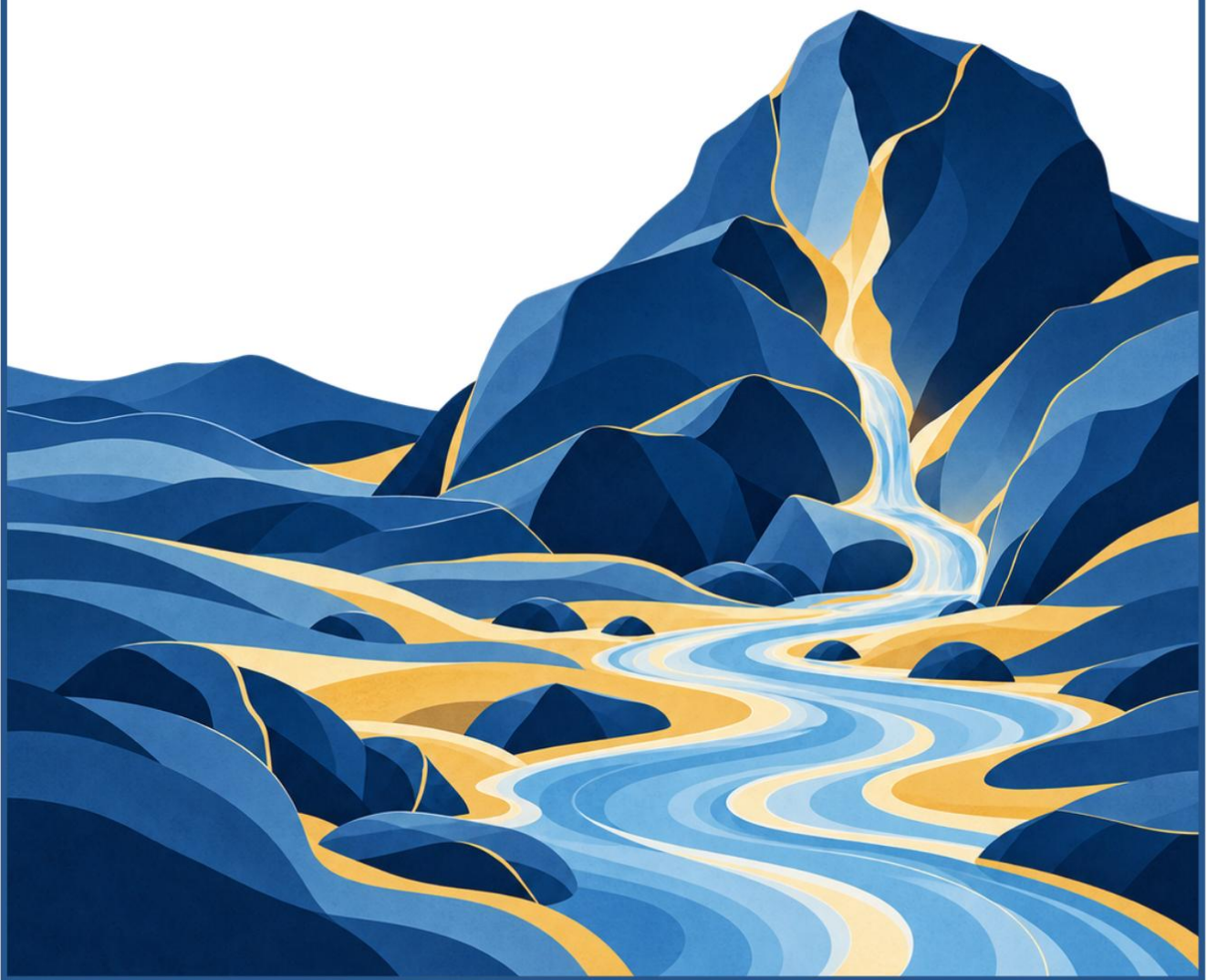


First Presbyterian Church Winchester, VA

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

"I Thought I Was Done With This"



**"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

Variations on “Austrian Hymn”

John Knowles Paine

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 78)

We will remember the glorious deeds of the Lord and the wonders God has done.

We will tell of God’s faithfulness from generation to generation.

God made a way through the waters and led the people through the wilderness.

The Lord guided them by day and gave them light in the darkness.

God brought streams from the rock and caused waters to flow like rivers.

We come before the God whose faithfulness endures through every wilderness.

Come, let us worship God!

✠ **HYMN 463**

“How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

✠ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Faithful God, you have walked with your people through every wilderness, yet we are quick to wonder whether you are still with us. When old fears return, we forget the ways you have carried us before. We allow worry to shape our choices, frustration to shape our words, and doubt to overwhelm our trust. Forgive us, O Lord. Remind us of your faithfulness, give us courage for the places where we still struggle, and teach us to trust your presence even when the way ahead is uncertain; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence for personal confession

✠ **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, God does not abandon us when we wander, struggle, or lose our way.

Thanks be to God for mercy that meets us wherever we are.

In Jesus Christ, grace finds us again, our sins are forgiven,
and we are given strength to begin anew.

We receive God’s forgiveness and trust in God’s steadfast love.

So rise and walk forward in faith, knowing that the God who has
carried you this far is with you still.

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

"God Hears Me When I Pray"

Gowens/Louis

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 17:1-7

SERMON "I Thought I Was Done With This"

✠ **HYMN 819**

"Be Still, My Soul"

FINLANDIA

The People of God Respond in Faith

✠ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

[...the petitions conclude...] And now as Christ taught us, we are bold to pray... 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 OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

Friends, our giving is an act of gratitude for what God has given us. 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

"Hymn of Promise"

Natalie Sleeth

✠ **THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN 606, AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN 353

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

SOLID ROCK

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“Cwm Rhondda”

Austin Lovelace

USHERS

Fred Gall, Mark Schroeder, Lynn McCauley, Mary Hester

The flowers in the Sanctuary are dedicated to celebrate the marriage of Catherine Keim and Kevin Williams.

Saturday, October 24 | Pastor Evan’s Installation & Reception

Join Shenandoah Presbytery and the congregation of First Presbyterian Church at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary as we celebrate the installation of the Rev. Dr. Evan R. Smith. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall. Contributions of food and volunteers for greeting, kitchen help, and cleanup are welcome! Visit fpcwinc.org/installation to sign up, or contact Jenny Callis. Thank you!

Monday, October 12 | Let’s Talk Breast Cancer! October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Join FPC member Nicole Sergent for an online conversation from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. about her experience with early detection, breast cancer research, and advocating for your health, with time for questions and discussion. Everyone is welcome, and friends are encouraged to attend! Visit fpcwinc.org/events for details and the Zoom link.

2027 Offering Envelopes

We’ll soon be ordering offering envelopes for 2027. Would you like to start receiving envelopes, discontinue them, or switch between weekly and monthly envelopes? Please let Jennifer in the church office know your preference by Sunday, October 18. If your current arrangement works for you, no action is needed.

Adult Sunday School Bible Study Is Back! | 9:45 a.m. in Loudoun Hall

This is my first time leading a Sunday School class here at First Presbyterian, and I am excited! One of my joys is leading an inductive Bible study. We’ll begin with the text itself: What do you notice? What questions arise? What would its first readers have heard that we might miss? Together, we’ll explore historical context, wrestle with difficult passages, follow connections through Scripture, and ask what God might be saying to us today. Questions aren’t interruptions; they’re often where the best parts begin.

We’ll start with the short but fascinating book of Jude, then decide together what to study next. Come ready to read, notice, wonder, question, and discover together! – Pastor Evan

Help Fill Holiday Tables | CCAP Food Collection

Help local families prepare a holiday meal by donating canned green beans or yams, marshmallows, cranberry sauce, gravy packets or cans, boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, cooking oil, pancake mix, or roasting pans. Frozen turkeys and hams are also needed. FPC’s collection deadlines are Sunday, November 15, for Thanksgiving and Sunday, December 13, for Christmas.