



All are welcome, because God *is* Welcome!

We hope you feel the warmth of God's presence and a genuine welcome here. If this is your first time with us, we are honored to have you and look forward to seeing you again soon!

Connect with First Church by scanning the QR code or visiting our website. There are wonderful things happening here, and we would love for you to find your place in our community of faith!

ABOUT THE SERVICE

Worship services are recorded and available on Facebook and our church website.

*Indicates that the congregation may stand. **Words we all say are in bold print.**

When we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, **all are welcome at the table of our Lord.**

Offering plates are available in the Narthex (sanctuary entrance) before and after worship, or you may give online by scanning the QR code. Your generosity enables First Church to make a meaningful impact in our community and beyond. As we like to say, we are **"blessed to be a blessing!"**

CONNECTION, LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

WE ARE A CONGREGATION IN CONNECTION WITH

The Presbytery of Florida
The Synod of South Atlantic
The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

THE SESSION

The Rev. Lisa Martin, Moderator, **Rosa Stanley**, Clerk of Session

Elected spiritual leaders of this congregation:

John Deegins ('25), **Ann Fyfe** ('26), **Jennifer Hodges** ('27),
Rich Kangas ('25), **Bob Plank** ('26), **Kathy Welsh** ('27)

CHURCH STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev. Lisa Martin
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Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 PM
Other days/times by appointment.

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GOD WELCOMES US

Prelude 'Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley' arr. Anthony Giamanco

Chiming the Hour

Words of Welcome

Gathering Song 314 'Christ, Be Our Light!' CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Refrain: Claire Calohan, soloist

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered to-day.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

*(repeat Refrain)

*We Rejoice in God's Welcome

In the great grace of God, welcome.
God's peace be with us and with the world that God loves.
Today is the first Sunday of our Lenten journey, a journey that will take us to the cross and to the empty tomb beyond.
We will wade into the mystery of dying and rising with new life, being open to hearing God's voice and following Jesus.
Together we will make the journey.
God will help us grow in steady faith as we venture into this holy season.

***Hymn 166** 'Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days' ST.FLAVIAN

*Prayer of the Day

God of wilderness and nighttime, as we devote these forty days to you, shape us by your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord, so that we may be ready, by your grace, to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Lenten Devotion, Week One

Ann Fyfe

Call to Confession

We cannot earn God's grace or favor. It comes to us, not as something owed, but as a gift freely given. Confident in God's love for us, we confess our sins:

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. Amen.

Kyrie

Traditional liturgical text, LAND OF REST, arr. Richard Proulx

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.
Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, God is for us and not against us! For that very reason God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him (John 3:17). Let us believe and celebrate the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Piano Psalm 'On Eagle's Wings' based on Psalm 91, Michael Joncas
arr. Bradley Thoreson

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Gospel Luke 4:1-13 NT, p. 83, softback, NT, p. 830, hardback

Message 'A Holy No' The Reverend Lisa Martin

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

***Hymn 291** 'Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness' SPIRIT

***Declaration of Faith** from First UM Church, Oviedo, FL
We believe in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; who gives us steadfast love and shares with us our joy. God sustains us in our weakness and empowers us with divine strength.

We follow Jesus Christ, God's Son. His death is our victory, his resurrection is our hope; in him we find forgiveness and release from despair. We are saved through Christ.

We are guided by the Holy Spirit, God's presence in the world. That same Spirit calls us to be the church: to celebrate unity, to seek justice, and resist evil together.

We are disciples, pilgrim people. We joyfully covenant to walk together in love. Thanks be to God!

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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.

GOD SENDS US TO LIVE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

*Hymn 462 'I Love to Tell the Story'

HANKEY

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

*Postlude 'Take the Name of Jesus with You'

PRECIOUS NAME
arr. James Koerts

Notice anything different today? In keeping with liturgical tradition (though new to us), the organ will be used sparingly during Lent. This practice emphasizes the penitential nature of the season, fostering a more reflective atmosphere. The organ will accompany certain hymns and special occasions, while simpler music will lead us through this season of prayer and renewal.



Let's stay in touch! Sign up to receive **This Week @ First Church**, the **e-Alert**, **Worship Online**, and prayer concerns emails! Simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera. We promise, its just a few emails each week.

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GOD CALLS US TO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship! During the next five weeks we will focus on the love of God that calls each of us to take account for our spiritual lives. Are we spiritually healthy and strong? How can we improve upon our spiritual life so that God is glorified, and our neighbors are loved? Our theme this Lent is **Renew, Remember, Rejoice**. Please join us for refreshments after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

The session meets at 11:30 today in the church office parlor. All church members are welcome to sit in on this meeting of the spiritual leaders of the congregation!

The Congregational Care Committee meets tomorrow (Monday) morning at 9:30 in the church office parlor.

The Presbyterian Men will gather on Tuesday evening, 5:30, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share and an interesting item to "show and tell"!

On Wednesday at noon, the Presbyterian Women will gather for a light lunch and Bible study. All women are invited to be part of this wonderful sistership! No need to bring anything, just come!

Next Sunday is our March fellowship luncheon! Bring a meat, veggie, salad, and/or dessert to share.

All Things Presbyterian: *What We Believe and What Difference Does It Make?* Pastor Lisa will lead two informal seminars on March 23 and 30, 11:45 am - 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Stay for refreshments, then stay for some learning! No need to register ahead of time, just come and let's learn together!

Have you found your place in the life of First Church? Our active congregation counts on all of us to take part in our ministries of love, compassion, and service! The "Finding Your Place" form is in the Narthex!



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven

RENEW | REMEMBER | REJOICE



Moretto da Brescia. **Christ in the Wilderness**. c. 1515-1520. Oil on canvas. NY: Metropolitan Museum of Art.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Chancel Choir

Bradley Thoreson, Music Director, Organist
The Reverend Lisa W. Martin, Pastor

ASSISTING TODAY 3/9

Rich and Peggy Kangas, Greeters
Rich Filippi, Church Safety Volunteer

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK 3/16

Rich Filippi and Paula Pezdirtz, Greeters
Jim Fyfe, Church Safety Volunteer

MORNING WORSHIP

March 9, 2025

10 AM

The First Sunday in Lent

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST