



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!

Announcements, our weekly calendar, and scripture readings are available to view by scanning the QR code.

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 rise in body or spirit. **Words we all say are in bold print.**

We generally celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions. Today we will come forward to receive the elements, taking them back to our seats to share as one body. **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. Thank you for helping to make Christ's love shown within our community and beyond. 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. Julie Thompson, Moderator, **Bob Plank**, Clerk of Session

Elected spiritual leaders of this congregation:

Ann Fyfe ('26), **Jennifer Hodges** ('27), **Steven McPherson** ('28),
Tami Valdez ('28), **Julian Wells** ('26), **Kathy Welsh** ('27)

CHURCH STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev. Julie Thompson
Transitional Pastor
(610) 570-3820
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Bradley Thoreson
Music Director, Organist
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Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 pm,
or by appointment.

www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

Chiming the Trinity

Prelude *Brother James's Air* arr. Mack Wilberg, adapt. Brian Richey

Words of Welcome and Community News Fox Hodges

This is the Day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Gathering Song (Hymn 701) *Lord, Prepare Me* SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,

Pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living

sanctuary for You.

***Rejoicing in God's Welcome** Rev. Julie Thompson

Christ is a living stone, precious in God's sight,
and on him we build our lives.

**We are God's people, and we proclaim God's mighty acts,
for we have been called out of darkness and into the light.**

Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people;
once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.
With hearts lifted in praise, we come to worship.

***Hymn 246** *Christ Is Alive!* TRURO

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Christ, our way, our truth, our life,
you have shown us the way, so clearly and fully.
You have not simply told us how to live; you have shown us.
But we still don't get it. We do not believe all you have said to us;
we do not trust the way you have shown us.
Help us, O God. Forgive us.
Open our ears to your truth,
open our eyes to your way, and lead us into new life.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Beloved, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Jesus prepares a place for us, Jesus brings us close to him,
Jesus answers us even in our unbelief. We are God's own people.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

***Joyful Response (Hymn 253, sung twice)**
Alleluia! Christ is Arisen! SANTO DOMINGO

Alleluia! Christ is arisen!

Bright is the dawning of the Lord's day.

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Epistle Reading 1 Peter 2:2-10 hardback, p. 991, softback NT, p. 322
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem *In My Father's House* Craig Courtney

Gospel Reading John 14:1-10 hardback, p. 873, softback NT, p. 147
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message "The Way Home" Rev. Julie Thompson

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

***Hymn 435** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* IN BABILONE

Moment of Generosity *One Great Hour of Sharing Update*

***Doxology (Hymn 606)** OLD HUNDREDTH

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.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

GOD GATHERS US AT THE TABLE

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise. ... the prayer continues ...

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.

Words of Institution and Breaking of the Bread

Communion of God's People

You'll be invited to come forward using the center aisle to receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice. Please return to your seat and hold the elements so we can share them together as one body. If you're unable to come forward, an elder will bring communion to you at your seat.

Prayer after Communion

GOD SENDS US TO LIVE THE LOVE OF THE RISEN CHRIST

*Hymn 353 *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* SOLID ROCK

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

Postlude *Postlude on "Solid Rock"* arr. Mark Rippe

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY:

The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, Organist, Music Director
Fox Hodges, Lay Leader
Rev. Julie Thompson, Transitional Pastor

ASSISTING TODAY:

Ann and Jim Fyfe, Greeters
Fox Hodges, Church Safety Volunteer

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK:

Rich and Peggy Kangas, Greeters
Bruce Mackay, Church Safety Volunteer

GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship on this Fifth Sunday of Easter. Today we gather as people claimed by God's mercy, called out of darkness into light, and built together as a living community in Christ. As we hear Jesus' promise, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," we are invited to trust his leading and find our way home in him. Come with open hearts to praise, to listen, to be nourished at the Table, and to be sent out to live the love of the risen Christ. Alleluia!

Join us for Fellowship Tuesdays this week on Tuesday, May 5, at Enzo's Italian in historic St. Andrews. In honor of Cinco de Mayo—*viva Italia* 😊—we'll gather for good food and even better company. All are welcome as we take time to begin and deepen friendships within the First Church community.

Summer Choir - All are welcome! Our Summer Choir returns this year, meeting on the first Sunday of each month beginning Sunday, June 7, 2026. We'll gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 AM to rehearse and prepare a piece for that morning's worship service. Whether you sing regularly or just enjoy making music, you're invited to join us—no long-term commitment required! Music for June, July, and August will be posted soon on our website so you can rehearse at home ahead of time. Come lend your voice and be part of our summer worship!

Our Teddy Bear Ministry offers small signs of care to those who are experiencing illness, loneliness, or difficult seasons. Each bear has been prayed over and is given as a reminder that we are not alone, but held in the love and prayers of this community. You are invited to take a bear from the front pew and share it with someone who could use a sign of comfort and care.



Stay connected! Sign up for This Week @ First Church, the Friday e-Alert, worship links, prayer updates, and more by scanning the QR code.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MORNING WORSHIP

May 3, 2026
10 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | **EASTER** | PENTECOST