



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

Portions of 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.**

We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions. **All are welcome at the table of our Lord.**

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

During this season of transition, as we seek both an interim and eventually a new called pastor, we will be blessed by a variety of guest preachers. We invite you to embrace this opportunity to hear God's Word proclaimed through many different voices.

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. Mark Broadhead, Moderator, **Bob Plank**, 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

Bradley Thoreson
Music Director, Organist
bradfpclh@gmail.com

Terri Boardway
Administrative Assistant
firstpresbylh@gmail.com

For emergency pastoral care, contact Kathy Welsh:
(850) 866 -0019

Church Office:
810 Georgia Avenue
Lynn Haven, FL 32444

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

Office: 850.265.2051
Email: firstpresbylh@gmail.com
www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

Prelude ‘Let Us Break Bread’ arr. Richard Syner

Chiming the Hour

Words of Welcome

Gathering Song (Hymn 468)
‘In My Life’ LORD, BE GLORIFIED

In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In our song, Lord, ...
In your church, Lord, ...
In your world, Lord, ...

***We Rejoice in God’s Welcome**
In our life, in our work, in the places we dwell, God is here.
Lord, be glorified.
In our hands, in our hearts, in the gifts we bring, God is present.
Lord, be glorified.
In the ways we forgive, the ways we serve, the ways we love, God is at work.
Lord, be glorified.
Come, people of God, to the table of welcome, mercy and grace.
With grateful hearts, we rejoice in God’s embrace!

***Hymn 619** ‘Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven’ LAUDA ANIMA

***Prayer of Praise**
Almighty God, we praise you for your steadfast love and sovereign presence in our lives. You call us to forgive as you forgive, to love as you love, and to embody the faithfulness of Christ in our daily living. We rejoice that in Jesus Christ, your mercy overcomes sin, your grace restores what is broken, and your Spirit gathers all people into one holy, universal body. Glorify your name among us today, that our worship may reflect your mercy, our lives your faithfulness, and our hearts your praise. Amen.

Call to Confession
In sincerity and faith, let us confess our sins to the One who waits to pour out mercy upon us, trusting in the steadfast love and reconciling power of Christ.

Unison Prayer of Confession
Merciful God, we confess that the world suffers because of our sin. We use power against others for our own benefit. By our

habits and apathies, others are subjected to desolation, even despair. Forgive us for making enemies and exiles of those you call us to love and serve. Forgive us for being complicit in causing others to grieve and to wander without rest. We wait on you, O God. We hope in you. You alone can restore all things, even us. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness
God, in Christ Jesus, grants us grace, mercy, and peace. Let us hold to the sound teaching of the faith: that God has the power to save us and has given us grace through all the ages.
We receive the treasure of faith entrusted to us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Thanks be to God, for in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

***Joyful Response (Hymn 447)**
‘We Are Forgiven’ WE ARE FORGIVEN
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

Anthem ‘All Are Welcome at the Table’ Mary McDonald
Incorporating WELCOME TABLE

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Gospel Luke 17:1-4 NT p. 847, hardback
NT p. 109, softback

Message ‘Water, Stones, and Sinkers’ The Reverend Mark Broadhead

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

***Hymn 683** ‘Lord of All Hopefulness’ COURTNEY
***Declaration of Faith** adapted from *The Brief Statement of Faith* and *The Confession of 1967*

Sisters and brothers, what do we believe?
We believe in one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains all life, gathering the whole world into one family. We believe in Jesus Christ, who breaks down dividing walls, calls us to forgive as we have been forgiven, and reconciles all things to God. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who binds the Church together at one table, guides us in faithful living, and sends us out as servants of mercy and peace. This is our faith, and we live it with joy, to the glory of God. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

***Communion Hymn 525** ‘Let Us Break Bread Together’
LET US BREAK BREAD

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Words of Institution

Communion of God’s People

Prayer after Communion

GOD SENDS US TO LIVE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

***Hymn 543** ‘God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me’
GREEN TYLER

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

***Postlude** ‘O God, Beyond All Praising’ THAXTED, arr. Richard Proulx

ABOUT THE COVER ART: This six-foot banner at the denominational offices in Louisville was created to illustrate the Peacemaking Offering for World Communion Sunday on October 5, 1997. This design was originally drawn in oil pastels by Dorothea B. Kennedy and was translated into fabric by Gloiela Yau Dolak.

DURING THIS SEASON OF TRANSITION:

If you have a prayer request, please contact Kathy Welsh, Congregational Care Chair, at 850-866-0019. Your requests will be kept confidential and shared only in the manner you prefer.

Have an announcement for the bulletin or website? Please send it to Terri Boardway (firstpresbylh@gmail.com) by noon on Wednesdays so we can keep our church family informed and connected.

If you are interested in church membership, please speak with Bob Plank, Clerk of Session. We are eager for you to find your place in the life of First Church!

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GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship! In this season after Pentecost, we celebrate God’s love, Christ’s presence, and the Spirit who leads us with hope. As we walk through this time of transition, we trust in God’s future together. **Please stay after worship** for refreshments and fellowship!

The Rev. Mark Broadhead joins us today as guest preacher and worship leader. Mark is the acting General Presbyter and Stated Clerk for Florida Presbytery. He is also serving First Church as Moderator of Session and liaison for the Interim Pastor Search Committee.

Today we celebrate World Communion Sunday. Please pick up your bread and juice in the Narthex and keep them at your seat until we share together in the sacrament. All are welcome at the Lord’s table!

The Interim Pastor Search Committee (IPSC) and Session will meet today in the church office parlor following worship. Please pray for wisdom and the Spirit’s guidance as we seek God’s future for us.


The Outreach Committee will meet this Tuesday, October 7, at noon in the church office parlor.

Join us on for our October Fellowship Tuesdays on October 7 at 6:00 pm at Alice’s on Bayview in Panama City for tasty food and warm fellowship. A great way to connect and share life together—everyone’s welcome! Please RSVP to Tami Valez at 850.625.8882 no later than Monday evening.

The Presbyterian Women gather this Wednesday, October 8, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. All women are encouraged to come and experience the deep friendships that the PW gives. A light lunch will be served.

The Chancel Choir will begin rehearsing Advent & Christmas music this Wednesday, October 8, at 6 pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

Join us for our third annual Memory Loss Workshop on Thursday, October 23, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Designed for both those experiencing memory loss and their caregivers, this free workshop is open to everyone in the community.



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

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY
The Chancel Choir Bradley Thoreson, Music Director, Organist Marti Willis, Lay Leader The Reverend Mark Broadhead, Guest Preacher
ASSISTING TODAY 10/25
Deb and Bill Mease, Greeters Lloyd Stanley, Church Safety Volunteer
ASSISTING NEXT WEEK 10/12
Ann and Jim Fyfe, Greeters Julian Wells, Church Safety Volunteer



“As the mountains and hills rejoice, the thirsty of all nations are invited to come to the water; the hungry are invited to come to the table. Everyone is welcome.”

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MORNING WORSHIP
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
October 5, 2025
10 AM