



**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. **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 support enables First Church to make Christ's love shown in real ways within our community and beyond. As we often say, we are truly **"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  
julie@firstchurchlh.org

**Bradley Thoreson**  
Music Director, Organist  
(850) 832-4745  
brad@firstchurchlh.org

**Terri Boardway**  
Administrative Assistant

**Church Office:**  
810 Georgia Avenue  
Lynn Haven, FL 32444  
850.265.2051  
office@firstchurchlh.org

**Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 pm,  
or by appointment.

**www.firstchurchlh.org**

## GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

**Prelude** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* RESIGNATION

### Chiming the Trinity

**Words of Welcome and Community News** Bob Plank

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen, indeed.**

This is the Day the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!**

### \*Gathering Song (Hymn 743)

*O God, You Are My God* STEP BY STEP

**O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.**

**O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.**

**I will seek you in the morning,  
and I will learn to walk in your ways.**

**And step by step you'll lead me,  
and I will follow you all of my days.**

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

The Lord is our shepherd; we have everything we need.

**Through shadow and light, through death and birth,  
through grief and joy, we have never been alone.**

We rest in that truth.

**Surely goodness and mercy  
shall follow us all the days of our lives,  
and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.  
Let us worship God.**

### \*Hymn 321 *The Church's One Foundation* AURELIA

### Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

God of community, you call us to a world radically different from the one we know. You ask us to lay aside our ideas of "mine" and "yours." You show us a life where goods are shared, where all are loved, and faithfulness is shown through generosity. But we cling to our possessions, trusting them more than we trust you. **Forgive us, merciful God. Help us to truly believe in your just and peaceful realm and to work to make it so. Amen.**

### Declaration of Forgiveness

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed.

For we were going astray like sheep, but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. Thanks be to God!

### \*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

**Anthem** *Shepherd Me, O God* Psalm 23

Refrain Fm D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

(Bm7) (C) (Am7) (Bm7) (Em)

Cm7 D<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m7 Cm7 Fm

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

### Gospel John 10:1-10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Message** "By the Gate" Rev. Julie Thompson

## GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

\*Hymn 802 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* ST. COLUMBA

### Moment of Generosity

\*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

\*Affirmation of Faith *from the Confession of 1967, 9.22*

**New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.**

## 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 THE RISEN CHRIST

\*Hymn 187 *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

\*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

Postlude *He Leadeth Me*

### LEADING WORSHIP TODAY:

The Chancel Choir  
Bradley Thoreson, *Music Director*  
Bob Plank, *Lay Leader*  
Rev. Julie Thompson, *Transitional Pastor*

### ASSISTING TODAY:

Deb and Bill Mease, *Greeters*  
Jim Fyfe, *Church Safety Volunteer*

## GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

**Alleluia! Christ is risen—and we're so glad you're here!** On this Fourth Sunday of Easter, we continue to celebrate the light of resurrection that breaks into our ordinary lives and opens our eyes to Christ among us. Let us rejoice and be glad in this day the Lord has made, and worship God with joy and gratitude.

**Today we receive the Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering**—which helps fight food insecurity ministries here and throughout the Presbytery of Florida. Thank you for your generous giving.

**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 so you can rehearse at home ahead of time. Come lend your voice and be part of our summer worship!

**We're seeking a few new members for the Finance & Personnel Committee**—a small group that helps guide the church's finances and staff support, meeting only a few times a year. Members must belong to the church. Interested? Contact Jennifer Hodges at [jen@hodesweldfab.com](mailto:jen@hodesweldfab.com)



**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



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MORNING WORSHIP

April 26, 2026

10 AM