



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 called and installed 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:

Ann Fyfe ('26), **Jennifer Hodges** ('27), **Steven McPherson** ('28),
Bob Plank ('26), **Tami Valdez** ('28), **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:
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Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 PM
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www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

Prelude ‘Lord, I Want to Be a Christian’ *arr. Christina Harmon*

Chiming the Hour

Words of Welcome Bob Plank

***We Rejoice in God’s Welcome**

We come seeking God.
We come with questions and hunger.
We come with prayers we believe are faithful.
We come with lives we believe are good.
And still, God speaks.

(Silence)

Let us worship the God who sees clearly.

***Hymn 4** ‘Holy God, We Praise Your Name’
GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

***Prayer of Praise**

Holy God, we praise you because you are still God when the world feels unrecognizable.

You are not shaken by what unsettles us. You are not confused by what we cannot yet name. You remain faithful when truth is distorted and power disguises itself as righteousness.

You see clearly. You love deeply. You do not abandon what is wounded.

So we lift our voices—Not because all is well, but because you are present.

We praise you, O God, for your fierce truth and your unrelenting mercy. Receive our worship.
Amen.

Song of Preparation (Hymn 288)
‘Spirit of the Living God’ *LIVING GOD*

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Call to Confession

God invites us not into performative faith,
but into truthful worship—
the kind that tells the truth about who we are
and who God calls us to be.
Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

Responsive Prayer of Confession

God of truth, we have sought you daily
and assumed that meant we were aligned with you.
We have practiced devotion without asking
who bears its cost.
We have called things faithful
because they were familiar.
We have confused sincerity with righteousness
and order with justice.
We ask not for comfort,
but for truth.
(Silence)

Kyrie Eleison (Hymn 551) *LAND OF REST*
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Old Testament Isaiah 58:1–9a

Anthem ‘There is a Longing’ *Anne Quigley*

Gospel Matthew 5:13–20

Message ‘No Longer Good for Anything’
Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson

Invitation to Wholeness

Hear the good news:
God does not leave us where truth has exposed us.
God meets us there.
In Jesus Christ, the distance between who we are and who we were created to be is not held against us.
What has been named is not counted.
What has been exposed is not condemned.
What has been false does not have the final word.
By the grace of God, we are forgiven, we are restored,
and we are invited back into wholeness.
This is the gift of grace: not denial, but renewal.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

***Joyful Response (Hymn 582)** *GLORY TO GOD*
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

***Declaration of Faith**

We trust in God the Creator, who calls all creation good and loves what is wounded. We trust in Jesus Christ, God’s Word made flesh, who meets us in our weakness, forgives our failures, and restores us to life in God’s justice and peace. We trust in the Holy Spirit, who calls us beyond familiarity into truth, who strengthens us to serve with courage, and who binds us together as God’s people. In this triune God, we find grace for our questions, hope for our hunger, and the promise of restoration and wholeness. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Hymn 729** ‘Lord, I Want to Be a Christian’
I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

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

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

***Hymn 295** ‘Go to the World’
SINE NOMINE

***Benediction and Three-fold Amen**

Postlude ‘Postlude on *Victory in Jesus*’
arr. Bradley Thoreson
In loving memory of the Reverend Dan Mitchell

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY:

The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, *Organist, Director of Music*
Bob Plank, *Lay Leader, Clerk of Session*
Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson, *Guest Preacher and Worship Leader*
Rev. Mark Broadhead, *Session Moderator*

ASSISTING TODAY:

Garrett Kivett and Charles Willis, *Greeters*
John Deegins, *Church Safety Volunteer*

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK:

Carol Oakley and Larry Hammond, *Greeters*
Rich Filippi, *Church Safety Volunteer*

GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship! We’re glad you’re here! On this 5th Sunday after Epiphany, we gather to worship the God who sees us clearly, calls us into honest faith, and restores us to wholeness. May our prayers, music, and words guide us closer to God’s grace and truth today.

We are grateful to welcome back the Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson as our guest preacher and worship leader today.

In keeping with the church’s bylaws, the Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven to take place at the close of worship today. We keep these meetings short and sweet

Presbyterian Men will gather this Tuesday at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for dinner and conversation.

Presbyterian Women will gather this Wednesday at noon in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to this time of faith and fellowship.

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Debbie Gabbard, who passed away last week after a long illness. We pray for God’s comfort and peace for all who grieve her loss.

We also hold in prayer the family of the Reverend Dan Mitchell, who died on January 31. Pastor Dan faithfully served this congregation from 2006 to 2018. May God surround his family and all who loved him with peace and hope. You may read his obituary by visiting www.allenfh.com.

Join us February 17 at 5:00 p.m. for our first Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—breakfast for dinner, fellowship, and fun. Donations will support our Presbyterian Women’s ministry partnership with Sue Bowen, serving Bay County high school students facing food and housing insecurity. Sue will share a brief update.

Join us February 18 at 5:00 p.m. for a brief, reflective Ash Wednesday Evening Prayer service. The imposition of ashes will be offered as we begin the Lenten journey with humility and hope.

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, or any ruling elder. We are eager for you to find your place in the life of First Church!



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

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5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

MORNING WORSHIP
February 8, 2026
10 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST