



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 *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing* TRURO

Chiming the Trinity

Words of Welcome and Community News Kathy Welsh

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 614)

Great Are You, Lord GREAT ARE YOU LORD

Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just;
by your power we trust in your love.
Great are you, Lord: you are faithful and true;
by your mercy you prove you are love.
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:
Great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

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

Alleluia! Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God-with-us,
we have been born anew into a living hope.
We have been given a new life, and a glorious future!
We have been given an inheritance that will never pass away!
Blessing and glory and honor and power and might be to our
God forever and ever!
Come into God's presence with praise and thanksgiving.
In love and joy, we praise the Lord! Alleluia!

***Hymn 238** *Thine Is the Glory* JUDAS MACCABEUS

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of empty tombs and empty people:
we confess that at times we are skeptics.
When we hesitate to speak of your hope,
forgive us, and give us voice.
When we find it difficult to love another,
forgive us, and give us new compassion.
When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts,
forgive us, and send us out to share your grace.
When we cannot believe your Word of new life,
forgive us, and fill us with your joy. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Receive God's forgiveness and the promise of the Spirit,
for Jesus is risen from the dead.

Seen or unseen, Christ is present in our midst.

Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives
with the light of Easter.

Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults,
and gifts us with grace and hope.

Christ has come to us to fill us with peace,
that we may proclaim the good news.

Alleluia! Amen.

***Joyful Response (Hymn 236)** *The Strife is O'er* VICTORY

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia! (refrain)

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Epistle 1 Peter 1:3-9 hardcover p. 987; softcover NT p. 315
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Peace Like a River* arr. David Whipple, Jr.

Gospel John 20:19-31 hardcover p. 879; softcover NT p. 156
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Message "Peace Be with You" Rev. Julie Thompson

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

***Hymn 817** *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* DUNLAP'S CREEK

Moment of Generosity *Backpack Ministry* Claire Calohan

***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**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.26

Life in Christ is life eternal.

The resurrection of Jesus is the sign
that God will consummate the work
of creation and reconciliation beyond death
and bring to fulfillment
the new life begun in Christ.

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 253 (verses 3-4)** *Alleluia! Christ is Arisen* SANTO DOMINGO
Refrain is sung twice each time

***Benediction and Three-fold Amen**

Postlude *Lift High the Cross*

CRUCIFER

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY:

The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, *Director of Music*
Kathy Welsh, *Lay Leader*
Rev. Julie Thompson, *Transitional Pastor*

ASSISTING TODAY:

Marcia Burden and Linda Wentworth, *Greeters*
John Deegins, *Church Safety Volunteer*

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK:

Jan Raines and John Deegins, *Greeters*
Rich Filippi, *Church Safety Volunteer*

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GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

Alleluia! Christ is risen—and we're so glad you're here! On this
Second Sunday of Easter, we gather in the joy of the resurrection
and the peace Christ brings to our lives ... even when we have
doubts and questions. However you come today, you are welcome
in this place. After worship, we invite you to stay for refreshments
and fellowship—we'd love to spend a little more time together!

**The Men of the Church will gather this Tuesday, 4/14, at 5:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.** We'd love to welcome anyone who'd like to
join us—whether it's your first time or you've been before. Feel free
to bring a friend along, too! We'll begin with a potluck dinner,
followed by a brief time of business and conversation.

**We're seeking a few new members for the Finance & Personnel
Committee,** a behind-the-scenes ministry that helps guide the
church's financial health, budgeting, and staff support and meets
only a few times each year. Committee members need to be
members of this church, so if you've been considering taking that
step, this is a meaningful way to get involved. If you're interested or
have questions, please speak with Jennifer Hodges or email her at
jen@hodgesweldfab.com—she'd love to hear from you!

**This Friday and Saturday, the Heritage Society of Lynn Haven
invites you to a community Rummage Sale in Roberts Hall!** Come
browse a wide variety of treasures—every purchase supports the
restoration of the historic McMullin Library (est. 1911). Donations
are also being accepted on Wednesday and Thursday at Roberts
Hall. Thank you for helping preserve an important piece of Lynn
Haven's history!

Join us for our April Fellowship Lunch next Sunday, April 19! Bring
your favorite spring mains, sides, salads, or desserts to share and
enjoy good food, laughter, and community. It's a perfect day to
invite a friend and celebrate the Easter season together—everyone is
welcome!

LOOKING AHEAD: The "Do Nothing" women's group will meet for
a Brown Bag Lunch Swap on Wednesday, 4/22, at 11 am in the
pavilion at Porter Park in Lynn Haven. Bring a sack lunch and come
ready to enjoy great sistership and the beautiful waterfront views.
All are welcome and you are encouraged to bring a friend! For
more information, see Kathy Welsh or Peggy Kangas.



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



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

MORNING WORSHIP

April 12, 2026

10 AM

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