

# PALM SUNDAY

*From Palms to Passion*



March 29, 2026 | 10 am  
First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven  
[www.firstchurchlh.org](http://www.firstchurchlh.org)



## 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!

Online giving, announcements, our weekly calendar, and scripture readings are available by scanning the QR code. There are wonderful things happening here, and we look forward to you finding your place in this community of faith!

## ABOUT THE SERVICE

Worship services are recorded and available on Facebook and our church website.

\*Invites the congregation to rise in body or spirit. **Words we all say are in bold print.**

**Today we will celebrate the sacrament of Communion.** At First Church, all are welcome at the Lord's table.

**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 a meaningful impact within our community and beyond. As we often say, 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  
[julie@firstchurchlh.org](mailto:julie@firstchurchlh.org)  
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**Bradley Thoreson**  
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**Terri Boardway**  
Administrative Assistant  
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Lynn Haven, FL 32444

**Hours:**  
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# THE LESSONS

## PSALM 118:1-2, 19-29

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,  
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!  
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of  
the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.  
The Lord is God,  
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to  
you;  
you are my God; I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

## MATTHEW 21:1-11

When they had come near Jerusalem and  
had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of  
Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to  
them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and  
immediately you will find a donkey tied and a  
colt with her; untie them and bring them to  
me. If anyone says anything to you, just say  
this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will  
send them immediately.” This took place to  
fulfill what had been spoken through the  
prophet:

“Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had  
directed them; they brought the donkey and  
the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he  
sat on them. A very large crowd spread their  
cloaks on the road, and others cut branches  
from the trees and spread them on the road.  
The crowds that went ahead of him and that  
followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name  
of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city  
was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The  
crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus  
from Nazareth in Galilee.”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

All, as able, are invited to gather on the front lawn of the church for the Procession with Palms.

\*Invites the congregation to rise in body or spirit. Words we all say are in **bold print**.

## Chiming the Trinity

\*Procession with Palms

*Hosanna, Loud, Hosanna*

ELLACOMBE

1 Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na, the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,  
3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the joy - ful an - them rang.  
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud;  
for Christ is our Re - deem - er; the Lord of heaven, our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them, close fold - ed to his breast,  
the Lord of earth and heav - en rode on in low - ly state,  
O may we ev - er praise him with heart and life and voice,

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren should on his bid - ding wait.  
and in his bliss - ful pres - ence e - ter - nal - ly re - joice.

## Words of Welcome and Community

Marti Willis

Hosanna! This is the day the Lord has made; what shall we do?

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

Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## \*We Rejoice in God's Welcome

What will we lay down as Christ passes by?

**We have no cloaks today, but we will lay down our hearts, our hopes, and our lives.**

As the crowds in Jerusalem cried out long ago, we echo,

**Hosanna! Save us!**

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

## \*Hymn 196

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

ST. THEODULF

## Call to Confession

Rev. Julie Thompson

## Prayer of Confession

Christ our Redeemer, try as we might, we do not follow your example. We do not empty ourselves; we do not humble ourselves; we are not obedient. You simply ask us to care about this world you created, but we fail to do even that. Forgive us. You have given us the greatest, clearest example of love. Heal us and help us to follow.

## Declaration of Forgiveness

Even in the face of hatred and violence, we know that Christ loves us. Even when enduring death, Christ cares for us; Christ forgives us.

Thanks be to the God of mercy.

## \*Joyful Response (Hymn 654) *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

*Taizé Community, J. Berthier*

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;**

**in the Lord I will rejoice!**

**Look to God; do not be afraid.**

**Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.**

**Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.**

# GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

## Psalter

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

See inside front cover

## Gospel

Matthew 21:1-11

See inside front cover

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## \*Message

"Who Is This?"

Rev. Julie Thompson

# GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

**Anthem**

*My Song Is Love Unknown*

*Samuel Crossman, Karen Marrolli*

**Moment of Generosity**

One Great Hour of Sharing

**\*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

**\*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**

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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God: In our suffering and sorrow, we trust in your saving power, for you are good and gracious; our lives are in your hands. With you as our helper, we will not be put to shame.

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: Betrayed and denied by those whom he loved, Jesus surrendered himself to death—death on a cross. There he gave his life in love for the world.

Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. By your Spirit, let us share the mind of Christ, who emptied himself, suffering shame and death, so that all might know the fullness of your glory. Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.

With the faithful of all the ages, we are bold to pray:  
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

*You will be invited to come forward by way of the central aisle to receive the bread and cup.  
If you are unable to come forward, an elder will serve you at your seat.*

## Prayer after Communion

# GOD SENDS US TO LIVE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

### \*Hymn 198

*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*

ST. DROSTANE

### \*Benediction

### Postlude

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE, arr. Lani Smith

### LEADING WORSHIP TODAY:

The Chancel Choir  
Bradley Thoreson, *Organist, Director of Music*  
Marti Willis, *Lay Leader*  
The Reverend Julie Thompson, *Transitional Pastor*

### ASSISTING TODAY:

Carol Oakley and Larry Hammond, *Greeters*  
Charles Willis, *Church Safety Volunteer*  
Ann Fyfe, Rich Kangas, and Kathy Welsh, *Communion Servers*

### ASSISTING NEXT WEEK:

Garrett Kivett and Charles Willis, *Greeters*  
David Cooley, *Church Safety Volunteer*



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

# GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

**Welcome to worship on this Palm Sunday.** Whether you are here each week or joining us for the first time, you are welcome in this place. We will begin by gathering on the front lawn to remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Please bring your bulletin as we process with palms and sing together.

**Today we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.** At First Church, all are welcome at the Lord's Table. When invited, please come forward by way of the center aisle to receive the bread and cup. If you are unable to come forward, an elder will be glad to serve you where you are seated.

**Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week**—a sacred journey from "Hosanna" to the cross, and on to the joy of Easter. We invite you to walk this path with Christ in worship, prayer, and reflection. Join us on Maundy Thursday as we are reminded of Christ's command to love one another, remember Jesus' last meal and share in Holy Communion. On Good Friday, the sanctuary will be open for prayer from 12-3 pm, with additional services offered at local churches. A Holy Week devotional is included today to guide your prayer throughout the week. Make space for this holy time—to walk the story, listen for God's presence, and prepare your heart for Easter.

**TODAY is the deadline to dedicate an Easter plant (lily, tulip, or hydrangea) in memory or honor of a loved one.** Dedications will be listed in the Easter bulletin. Plants will adorn the sanctuary on Easter morning and may be taken home following the service. Scan the QR code, visit our website, or fill out the form in the bulletin to order yours today!

**Today is 2 Cents-a-Meal Sunday.** This monthly offering is a simple way to share God's love with our neighbors. Joining others across our presbytery, these gifts help fight food insecurity in our community and beyond, including support for students at Lynn Haven Elementary through our backpack ministry. Even small offerings make a meaningful difference.

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT FIRST CHURCH



**Maundy Thursday, 4/2, 5 pm,** with the celebration of Holy Communion

**Good Friday, 4/3, 12-3 pm,** the Sanctuary will be open for prayer

***Local Good Friday Services:***

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 12 pm, 1608 Baker Court, Panama City, FL 32401

First United Methodist Church, 7 pm, 822 East Hwy 98, Panama City, FL 32401

**Easter Sunday, 4/5**

**Sunrise Service, 6:15 am,** in the Pole Barn, bring a chair

**Festival Worship, 10 am,** in the Sanctuary