



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 many wonderful things happening here, and we'd love for you to find your place in our community of faith!

- About the Service -

Worship services are filmed for later access on Facebook and our church website.

The People's words are in **bold text**.

*Indicates that the congregation may stand.

When we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please know that all are welcome at the table of our Lord.

Offering plates are available in the Narthex (sanctuary entrance) before and after worship. Your generosity enables First Church to make a meaningful impact in our community and beyond. As we like to say, we are "blessed to be a blessing!"



THE SESSION

(elected spiritual leaders of this congregation)

Moderator: **The Rev. Lisa W. Martin**

Clerk of Session: **Rosa Stanley**

Class Of 2025: **John Deegins, Rich Kangas**

Class Of 2026: **Ann Fyfe, Bob Plank**

Class Of 2027: **Jennifer Hodges, Kathy Welsh**

A CONGREGATION IN CONNECTION WITH

The Presbytery of Florida,

The Synod of South Atlantic, and

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

- Church Staff and Contact Information -

THE REV. LISA W. MARTIN

Pastor, Head of Staff
revlwmartin@gmail.com

BRADLEY THORESON

Music Director, Organist
bradfplh@gmail.com

TERRI BOARDWAY

Administrative Assistant,
Bookkeeper
firstpresbylh@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE:

810 Georgia Avenue
Lynn Haven, FL 32444

HOURS: M-TH: 8-12

Other days/times by appointment.

PHONE: 850.265.2051

EMAIL: firstpresbylh@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US

PRELUDE

"Be Thou My Vision"

Bradley Thoreson, organ

Setting: Dan Forrest, arr. Douglas Wagner

CHIMING THE HOUR

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Lisa Martin

GATHERING SONG (Hymn 701)

"Lord, Prepare Me"

SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,

Pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

*WE REJOICE IN GOD'S WELCOME

Psalms 1

Happy are those whose delight is in the law of the Lord!

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield good fruit in due season.

The Lord watches over the way of the righteous.

Let us worship God who is ever faithful!

*HYMN 39

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

God our Delight, your word guides us in paths that are true, and your Spirit enlightens us to receive your word with joy. We praise you for blessing us with instruction. May we receive your word with the grace you intend, so that our lives may reveal the kingdom you are creating through the redeeming power of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth of God is not within us. So let us be honest and confess what separates us from God and our neighbors, trusting in God's faithful desire to forgive and renew.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, your call to discipleship is demanding. You call us to reorder our lives by the kingdom you are bringing in Jesus Christ. Yet we confess that we pass by the ones you especially notice: people who are poor and hungry, those who are hated, bullied, and excluded. Comfortable with the way things are, we are often complacent. Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to your gospel, where we find peace and hope for all the days of our living. We pray this now, for our sake and for the sake of the world you love and came to save through Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God is faithful and steadfast, eager to forgive our sin and grant us peace.

Brothers and sisters, let us believe and celebrate the good news of the

*Gospel: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!***

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father,

and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen, amen.

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

"A Closer Walk"

Dennis Allen

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

THE GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

NT, p. 88, softback

NT, p. 833, hardback

MESSAGE

"View from a Level Place"

Rev. Lisa Martin

GOD CALLS US TO ACT

*HYMN 839

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!"

ASSURANCE

*DECLARATION OF FAITH (The Rev. Amanda Burr, Palm Springs, CA)

We believe in God, the creator of all things, the giver of life and breath.

We believe in Jesus Christ, born Emmanuel, God with us, baptized and revealed the beloved Son of God.

He sought to heal humanity by taking our brokenness upon himself, suffering for us, dying for us

and being raised from the dead for our sake

and for the sake of all the world.

We believe that he will come again.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

continually poured out, refreshing our lives,

leading us into a new day,

ever birthing the church, the body of Christ in the world.

This Spirit is our soul companion and counselor of truth

reminding us of the gift of faith,

the ever presence of God,

and the promise of eternal life.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

*HYMN 837

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

SHOWALTER

*BENEDICTION & THREE-FOLD AMEN

*POSTLUDE

“Come, We That Love the Lord”

Robert Lowry



Let's stay in touch! Sign up to receive the e-Alert, prayer concerns, and *This Week @ First Church* notices! Click the QR code with your phone's camera!

©Copyright 2025, First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven, Florida. All Rights Reserved. Music used with permission by CCLI # 1235603. Scripture quotations are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright ©1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 16, 2025

Welcome to worship! We continue in the season of Epiphany, when the church focuses on the ways that God in Jesus Christ is revealed to the world around us. We're glad you're here!

Our February lunch follows worship today! We are blessed to be serenaded today by the Gulftones Barbershop Chorus.

Next Sunday we receive the 2-Cents-a-Meal offering, which supports food insecurity ministries of First Church and Florida Presbytery. Because of your generosity, hungry people are fed. It's as simple, and as profound, as that!

February is Black History Month. This year's theme is "African Americans and Labor" with a focus on the various and profound ways that work of all kinds intersects with the collective experiences of Black people. For more information from the Smithsonian Institute, go to <https://www.si.edu/events/black-history-month>.

Looking Ahead: the holy season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. Lent is a 40-day period during which Christians anticipate with humility the death and resurrection of Christ. A brief worship service will be held on Ash Wednesday from 12:15-12:45 in the sanctuary; the imposition of ashes will take place for those who want them.

The Spring Gathering of Florida Presbytery's Presbyterian Women will be held at Dogwood Acres camp on Saturday, March 8. Cost for the day is \$20. Ladies, if you'd like to attend, please contact Rosa Stanley!

Have you found your place in the life of First Church? Our active congregation counts on all of us to take part in our ministries of love, compassion, and service! The "Finding Your Place" form is in the Narthex!

Tomorrow is Presidents' Day! Who is your favorite president, and why?

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY
The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, Music Director, Organist
The Reverend Lisa W. Martin, Pastor

ASSISTING TODAY 2/16
Greeters: Jan Rains and John Deegins
Church Safety Volunteer: Charles Willis

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK 2/23
Greeters: Deb and Bill Mease
Church Safety Volunteer: David Cooley



MORNING WORSHIP



6TH SUNDAY

AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 16, 2025
10:00 AM