



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
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Terri Boardway
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GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

Prelude 'I Am a Poor, Wayfaring Stranger' *arr. Anna Laura Page*

Chiming the Trinity

Words of Welcome Rich Kangas

*We Rejoice in God's Welcome

Lent does not begin with answers. It begins with an unease we cannot quite name.

We come aware that something is lacking, though we are not sure what it is.

Lent does not rush us toward clarity. It invites us to pay attention.

We come carrying questions we do not yet know how to ask. Here, we are not asked to be certain or composed, but honest.

We come to worship the God who meets us even in our unknowing.

***Hymn 166** 'Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days' *ST. FLAVIAN*

*Prayer of Praise

God of mercy and patience, you meet us not only in fullness but in hunger, not only in clarity but in uncertainty, not only in abundance but in the places where we are unsure, exposed, and waiting.

As we begin this Lenten journey, quiet our need to manage. Open us instead to your steady presence—a presence that does not depend on our control, and does not withdraw when we are unfinished.

We praise you, not because life is simple, but because you are faithful even when it is not.

Amen.

Song of Preparation (Hymn 543, verse 1)

'God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me' *GREEN TYLER*

God, be the love to search and keep me;

God, be the prayer to move my voice;

God, be the strength to now uphold me;

O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of grace, we confess that we reach for control when trust feels risky.

Forgive us, and teach us to stay present.

When we are hungry for reassurance, we grasp for certainty.

Forgive us, and teach us to stay present.

When vulnerability feels dangerous, we fix, explain, smooth, or withdraw.

Forgive us, and teach us to stay present.

When waiting feels unbearable, we try to make things happen.

Forgive us, and teach us to stay present.

We confess that we are afraid to need you.

Forgive us, and meet us in our hunger. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison (Hymn 551)

'Lord, Have Mercy' *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.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news.

God does not abandon us in our hunger.

God does not turn away from our fear.

God does not withdraw when we are unfinished.

In Jesus Christ, we are met with mercy, held in grace, and invited into life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Joyful Response (Hymn 654)

'In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful' *Taize 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

Old Testament Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

Message 'When Power Starts to Feel Like Food' *Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson*

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

*Hymn 543 (verses 2-5)

'God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me' *GREEN TYLER*

*Lenten Declaration of Faith

From A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human and fully God. He proclaimed God's reign, forgave sinners, healed the broken, and was crucified for the sins of the world. God raised him from the dead, breaking the power of sin and evil and bringing us from death to life eternal.

Nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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

Congregational Meeting

*Hymn 65 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah' CWM RHONDDA

*Benediction and Three-fold Amen

Postlude 'I Want Jesus to Walk with Me'

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Marianne Kim

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY:

The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, *Organist, Director of Music*
Rich Kangas, *Lay Leader*
Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson, *Guest Preacher and Worship Leader*

ASSISTING TODAY:

Deb and Bill Mease, *Greeters*
Julian Wells, *Church Safety Volunteer*

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK:

Ann and Jim Fyfe, *Greeters*
Charles Willis, *Church Safety Volunteer*

GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship on this First Sunday in Lent. We are glad to be together this morning, and we offer a special welcome to any friends and visitors joining us. We're grateful you are here to begin this Lenten journey with us.

Lent is a season that invites us to slow down and be honest before God. We don't come with perfect answers or polished faith, but with our questions, our fears, and our hope that God meets us just as we are. In these forty days, we are reminded that even in our uncertainty and hunger, God's mercy holds us steady and leads us toward wholeness and new life in Christ.

Today we welcome back the Rev. Dr. Nicole Richardson as our guest preacher and worship leader. Nicole has been a friend to First Church and leads *Tide and Table*, a new worshipping community located along the 30A corridor.

The Session has called a meeting of the congregation to be held at the close of worship today for the purpose of electing an elder to fill an unexpired term on the Session.

Be sure to stay after worship for refreshments and conversation in the Fellowship Hall. It's a great way to start your week!

Today we receive the Two Cents-a-Meal Offering. Your gifts help fight food insecurity, supporting ministries here at First Church and across the Presbytery of Florida. Every contribution makes a difference in the lives of those in need.

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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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MORNING WORSHIP

February 22, 2026

10 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST