



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

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!"**

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.fpclh@gmail.com

Bradley Thoreson
Music Director, Organist
bradfpclh@gmail.com

Terri Boardway
Administrative Assistant

Church Office:
810 Georgia Avenue
Lynn Haven, FL 32444

Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 PM
Office: 850.265.2051
Email: firstpresbylh@gmail.com

www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

*Indicates that the congregation may stand. Words we all say are in bold print.

Prelude *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart* M. Hayes, arr. D. Wagner

Chiming the Trinity

Words of Welcome

Marti Willis

This is the day the Lord has made, what shall we do?

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Gathering Song (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.

*We Rejoice in God's Welcome

From the depths we cry to the Lord.

Lord, hear our voices and listen to our prayers.

When hope feels dry as bones in a valley, God's Spirit breathes new life.

God gathers us and raises us up.

Ancient words of life and truth still speak today.

They give us hope, mercy, and new beginnings.

Come, people of God—

Let us worship the Lord who welcomes us, restores us, and breathes life into us again.

***Hymn 307** *God of Grace, and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

Call to Confession

The Scriptures remind us that God's Word exposes what is broken in us—but also promises mercy and new life. Trusting in God's steadfast love, let us come honestly before the Lord and confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you speak words of life, yet we often fail to listen. Your Spirit breathes hope, but we allow fear, doubt, and weariness to dry our bones. You call us to trust your promises, yet we cling to what is familiar instead of what is faithful. Forgive us when we lose hope in your power to renew and restore. Forgive us when we forget the depth of your love for us. Speak your living word into our hearts again. Breathe your Spirit into our lives. Raise us from the valleys we cannot escape on our own. Through Jesus Christ, who shows us the depth of your love and the power of your grace. Amen.

Kyrie (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. The God who spoke life into the valley of dry bones still speaks life into us today. In Jesus Christ we see the depth of God's love—a love stronger than sin, deeper than our failures, and faithful to forgive. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Choral Response *How Deep the Father's Love for Us* Stuart Townend

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Gospel Ezekial 14:1-31 hardcover p. 672; softcover OT p. 1027

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem *Ancient Words* Lynn DeShazo

Message "Ancient Words" Katy Mackay

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

***Hymn 286** *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* TRENTHAM

Moment of Generosity Blessing Box Ministry

*Doxology (Hymn 601)

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

Gracious and generous God, every good gift comes from you. From the depths you hear our cries, and into dry places you breathe new life. Through your Word you guide and renew us. Receive these gifts we offer today—our offerings, our food for the Blessing Box, and the work of our hands and hearts. Use them to feed the hungry, bring hope to our neighbors, and share your love with the world. We dedicate them to your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Lenten Declaration of Faith** adapted from *The Confession of 1967.1*

We trust in Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures. Through the witness of prophets and apostles, we hear God's story of covenant, mercy, and reconciliation.

In the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, we see God's purpose made clear: to heal, restore, and redeem the world.

Led by the Holy Spirit, we listen for God's voice in Scripture—read, preached, and lived—trusting that God still speaks and calls us to faithful obedience today.

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

***Hymn 610** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

***Benediction and Three-fold Amen**

Postlude *God of Grace, and God of Glory*

Jason W. Krug

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY:

The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, *Organist, Director of Music*
Marti Willis, *Lay Leader*
Katy Mackay, *Guest Preacher*

ASSISTING TODAY:

Paula Pezdirtz and Rich Filippi, *Greeters*
Julian Wells, *Church Safety Volunteer*

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK:

Carol Oakley and Larry Hammond, *Greeters*
Charles Willis, *Church Safety Volunteer*

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.

GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship on this Fifth Sunday in Lent. As we journey toward the cross, we gather knowing both the depths and the promise of new life. When hope feels distant and faith feels fragile, God meets us with mercy, truth, and steadfast love. Whoever you are, you are welcome here. Come and worship the One who hears our cries, restores our souls, and breathes new life into us again. Today we are happy welcome back to the pulpit our own Katy Mackay.

Help keep our Blessing Box stocked for neighbors facing food insecurity by placing donations in the collection box in the Narthex. We welcome unopened, non-perishable food items such as canned goods, pasta, rice, and peanut butter. Thank you for helping us share God's love in a practical way.

Summer Camp Scholarships are available through the church for Dogwood Acres Summer Camp. For more information, please pick up a brochure in the Fellowship Hall.

Dedicate an Easter plant (lily, tulip, or daffodil) in memory or honor of a loved one for \$12. Dedications will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Plants will be displayed during worship and may be taken home afterward. To order, visit www.firstchurchlh.org or sign up in the fellowship hall after worship. Payment may be made online, by check, or at the church office (Mon-Thurs, 9-12). Help fill our sanctuary with beauty and remembrance this Easter. Orders are due March 29.

HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH



Palm Sunday, 3/29, 10 AM, with Palm Procession and Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, 4/2, 5 PM, with Holy Communion

Good Friday, 4/3, Sanctuary will be open for prayer from 12-3 PM

Easter Sunday, 4/5

Sunrise Service, 6:15 AM in the Pole Barn, bring a chair
Festival Worship, 10 AM in the Sanctuary



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



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MORNING WORSHIP

March 22, 2026

10 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST