



**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](mailto:julie.fpclh@gmail.com)  
(610) 570-3820

**Bradley Thoreson**  
Music Director, Organist  
[bradfpclh@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:firstpresbylh@gmail.com)

[www.firstchurchlh.org](http://www.firstchurchlh.org)

## GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

**Prelude** *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* ST. KEVIN, Mary McDonald

### Chiming the Trinity

**Words of Welcome and Community News** Kathy Welsh

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia.**

Welcome to worship on this Day of Resurrection. This is the Day the Lord has made.

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

### \*Gathering Song (Hymn 240, verses 1-2)

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* ALLELUIA NO. 1

*Refrain:*

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth.**

**He is the King of creation. (refrain)**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth:**

**Jesus has died and has risen. (refrain)**

### \*We Rejoice in God's Welcome Rev. Julie Thompson

The tomb is empty! The stone has been rolled away!

**Christ is risen!**

The soldiers and the crowds have returned home.

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Come, let us worship our Risen Savior!

**Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### \*Hymn 232 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

### \*Prayer of the Day

O God of all our days, we come this morning with eager anticipation. We seek to know you, to see you, to touch you. Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew. Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection. May we, with shouts of joy, proclaim your steadfast, liberating love to all people, everywhere. 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

**Gospel** John 20:1-18 hardcover p. 878; softcover NT p. 155

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Anthem** *Alleluia! Christ is Risen!* Anthony Giamanco

**Message** "While It Was Still Dark" Rev. Julie Thompson

## GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

### \*Hymn 253 (verses 1-2) *Alleluia! Christ is Arisen* SANTO DOMINGO

### Invitation to Discipleship

We are God's people. Let God's word ring through your being and God's Spirit breathe new life into your lungs. What does it mean to be disciples of Christ?

**To be moved by gratitude for all we have been given, to live as neighbors amid difference, to speak truth with compassion, to act in gentleness and mercy, and to rebuke what is harmful and inhumane, in God's name.**

With one voice, in many tongues, go from here united in purpose, that we may speak of the good news of the resurrection wherever we go:

**Christ is risen, and a new life has begun.**

### 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

### \*Affirmation of Faith from The Book of Common Worship

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. 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 THE RISEN CHRIST

\*Hymn 233 *The Day of Resurrection*

LANCASHIRE

\*Benediction and Three-fold Alleluia (*The Strife is O'er*)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Postlude *Fanfare on "Thine Is the Glory"*

Paul Fey

## GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

**Alleluia! Christ is risen—he is risen indeed! Welcome to worship on this joyful Easter morning.** Whether you are here every week, visiting with family, or joining us for the first time, we are grateful to celebrate the good news of the resurrection with you. Come, let us rejoice in the gift of new life, hope, and love made known in Jesus Christ.

**Following worship, we invite you to stay and share in a time of fellowship**—we would love to connect with you and continue the celebration together.

**Fellowship Tuesdays will meet this Tuesday at 6 pm at Sonny's in Lynn Haven.** This is a great opportunity to get to know each other better and build friendships within our faith community. Bring a friend!



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

### LEADING WORSHIP TODAY:

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

### ASSISTING TODAY:

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

### ASSISTING NEXT WEEK:

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



**FIRST**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*of Lynn Haven*



## THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

**EASTER SUNDAY**

April 5, 2026  
10 AM

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