



### 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.

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

#### BRAD THORESON

Music Director, Organist  
bradfpclh@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/time by appointment.*

**PHONE:** 850.265.2051

**EMAIL:** firstpresbylh@gmail.com

**FACEBOOK:** @FirstPresbyLHFL

**WEBSITE:** www.firstchurchlh.org

## GOD WELCOMES US

### PRELUDE

"Arise, O God and Shine"

Bradley Thoreson, organ

arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen

### CHIMING THE HOUR

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Lisa Martin

### GATHERING SONG (Hymn 413)

"Come into God's Presence"

COME INTO HIS PRESENCE

**Come into God's presence singing Jesus is here, Jesus is here, Jesus is here.**

*...follow the star, follow the star, follow the star.*

*...glory to God, glory to God, glory to God!*

### \*WE REJOICE IN GOD'S WELCOME

Isaiah 60

*Arise, shine; for our light has come!*

**The glory of the Lord has risen among us!**

*Come, worship the Lord of glory.*

**We will proclaim God's praise here and everywhere!**

### \*HYMN 147

"The First Nowell" (verses 1-3)

THE FIRST NOWELL

### \*PRAYER OF PRAISE

Loving God, you placed a star in the sky to draw the wise to the place of Christ's nativity. There you revealed the mystery of your eternal purpose for all humanity: God made flesh, born of Mary, opening to all the world the promise you made to Abraham and Sarah. We praise you for your faith in us to proclaim your love! By your Spirit, empower your church to be as the light of the star, that we may draw the world to the glory of Christ, our Lord, in whom we pray. Amen.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's loving grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your favor is on the weak and distressed, yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and needy, yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and the defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and indifference. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us to

true repentance, that we may see as the magi saw, and follow the star to the place where it stopped, the place of perfect freedom and love. Amen.

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world, who grants forgiveness and peace. Brothers and sisters, receive this good news and rejoice, for...*

**...in Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

### PIANO MEDITATION

"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"

arr. Mark Hayes

## GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

### THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

NT, p. 6, softback

NT, p. 777, hardback

### MESSAGE

"Epiphany Stop"

Rev. Lisa Martin

## GOD CALLS US TO ACT

### \*HYMN 147

"The First Nowell" (verses 4-6)

THE FIRST NOWELL

### \*DECLARATION OF FAITH

*A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA*

Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a young woman of faith. Jesus lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman, as is every child, yet born of God's power, as was no other child. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, Jesus brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended and desired. Thanks be to God!



## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### \*HYMN 525

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

LET US BREAK BREAD

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

### GREAT THANKSGIVING & 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## GOD SENDS US TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

\*HYMN 151

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

KINGS OF ORIENT

Verse 1: All  
Verse 2: Women  
Verse 3: Men  
Verse 4: Choir  
Verse 5: All

\*BENEDICTION & THREE-FOLD AMEN

\*POSTLUDE

"Brightest and Best"

arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen

### LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

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

### ASSISTING TODAY 1/5

**Greeter:** Rich Filippi  
**Church Safety Volunteer:** Bill Mease

### ASSISTING NEXT WEEK 1/12

**Greeters:** Kelley and Atleigh Fiddler  
**Church Safety Volunteer:** Jerry Miller

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 5, 2025

**Welcome to Epiphany worship!** Today we celebrate the gift of the star that led the magi to find the Christ child. Our worship includes the sacrament of holy communion. Please gather your cups of bread and juice from the Greeter and keep them at your seat. Everyone is welcome to the Table of the Lord!

**Help Un-deck Our Halls!** Tomorrow at 8:30 am! Donuts and coffee provided! ☺

**The first Fellowship Tuesdays gathering of 2025** will be held this Tuesday at 6 pm at Sonny's BBQ in Lynn Haven. Please rsvp by texting Tami Valdez at 850-625-8882. Let's have a great showing and kick off the new year together! This group is for anyone who enjoys fellowshiping with friends in the faith (and eating)!

**Our Christian sympathy is extended** to the family of Calvin "Cal" Hoehn, who died on Christmas Day. Cal and his wife Jean were members of First Church for many years, and Cal served as a Deacon. They most recently lived in Jacksonville with a daughter. Pastor Lisa will officiate the funeral on Tuesday at 11 am at Kent-Forest Lawn Funeral Home. Visitation precedes at 10 am.

**The Presbyterian Women will gather this Wednesday** for our first meeting of the new year. We'll enjoy a light lunch at noon, followed by the study led by Pastor Lisa. All women are invited to attend this wonderful gathering of supportive sistership!

**The Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays and Sunday mornings!** Join us to make a joyful noise! We gather Wednesdays at 6 PM in the sanctuary and Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Did you know that all music is available online for you to rehearse on your own? [www.firstchurchlh.org/cc](http://www.firstchurchlh.org/cc)

**This month, Florida Presbytery will engage** in a time of conversation and listening to its congregations about the leadership needs of the presbytery. We will host a listening session with presbytery leadership next Sunday, **January 12 at 2 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend!

**First Church is hosting the Bay County gathering** of Presbyterian churches on Thursday, January 30. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm. Our meal will be homemade chili, cornbread, and desserts. If you'd like to provide chili, cornbread, and/or desserts, please reach out to Pastor Lisa. Everyone is invited to this gathering with brothers and sisters from Grace, Parkway, and Gulf Beach churches.

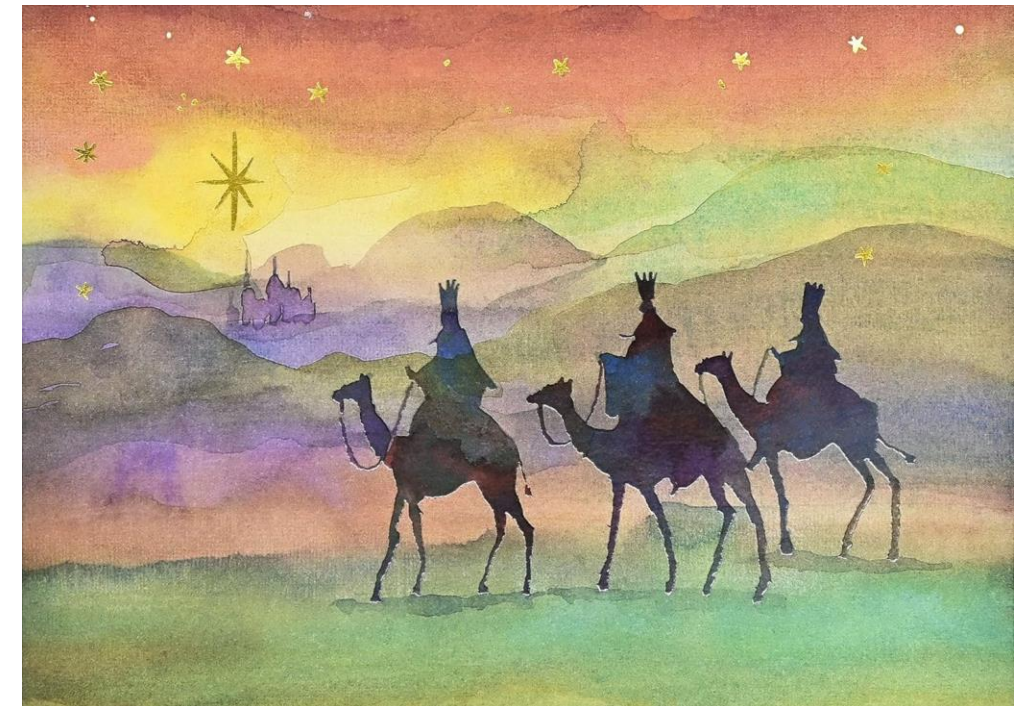


**Let's stay in touch!** Sign up to receive the e-Alert, prayer concerns, and *This Week @ First Church* notices! Click the QR code with your phone's camera!



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
of Lynn Haven

### MORNING WORSHIP



# EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**JANUARY 5, 2025  
10:00 AM**

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY  
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST