



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!

Online giving, announcements, our weekly calendar, and scripture readings are available by scanning the QR code. There are wonderful things happening here, and we look forward to you finding your place in this 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 may 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 **"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
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Terri Boardway
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Church Office:
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Lynn Haven, FL 32444

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

www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US IN LOVE

Prelude *Amazing Grace* arr. Tiffany Hobson

Chiming the Trinity

Words of Welcome Claire Calohan

This is the day the Lord has made, what shall we do?
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Gathering Song (Hymn 452)

Open the Eyes of My Heart OPEN THE EYES

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.

Open the eyes of my heart;

I want to see You; I want to see You.

(repeat)

**To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light of Your glory.**

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing "Holy, holy, holy."

(repeat from beginning)

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy; I want to see you.

*We Rejoice in God's Welcome

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

**We come seeking the light of Christ, that we might see clearly
and walk in His truth.**

Once we were blind, but now we see. Christ has opened our eyes to the glory of God.

**We come to worship the One who gives sight to the blind and
hope to the hopeless.**

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, and we come to worship Him today.

**Let us come with gratitude for the light Christ has brought into
our lives. Shine Your light upon us, Lord Jesus, as we gather in
Your name. Amen.**

***Hymn 401** *Here in This Place* GATHER US IN

Call to Confession

How do we know when our actions are right?

When the fruits of our labors are good and true.

Christ is the light that exposes all we keep hidden, but offers us healing and renewal instead of judgment. Therefore, let us hold up our sins to Christ's gaze.

Prayer of Confession

Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are. Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world, and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness. Help us see others as you see them, and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in his life, his teachings, and his love. In his holy name, we pray. 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

Jesus restores our souls and leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our
lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives
long.**

*Joyful Response (Hymn 654)

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful Taizé 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

Epistle *Ephesians 5:8-14* hardcover p. 950; softcover NT p. 262

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Readers Theatre *John 9:1-41* see insert

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message "Learning to See" Rev. Julie Thompson

GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND

***Hymn 649** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* AMAZING GRACE

Moment of Generosity One Great Hour of Sharing

***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**

God of grace, you have gifted us with life in Christ. Today we offer you the gifts of our work and the gifts of our hearts. May all that we bring and all that we are be your means of grace in the world, that all people may encounter your good news. Amen

***Lenten Declaration of Faith** ad. from *The Confession of 1967, 9.31*

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The church maintains continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to his call.

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 853** *We Are Marching in the Light of God* SIYAHAMBA

***Benediction and Three-fold Amen**

Postlude *We Are Marching in the Light of God* arr. Bradley Thoreson



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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GOD CALLS US INTO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship on this Fourth Sunday in Lent. We are grateful to gather together this morning and extend a special welcome to friends and visitors joining us. Thank you for being here as we continue our Lenten journey of reflection, prayer, and hope.

Join us for our March Fellowship Luncheon following worship today! There's always plenty to share (think *loaves and fishes*). Our guest speaker, Ron Houser from the Bay County Audubon Society, will present a program on how to attract birds to your backyard.

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

All women are invited to the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering on Saturday, March 21, at Dogwood Acres. Women from across the presbytery will gather for a day of worship, fellowship, learning, and renewal in a beautiful retreat setting. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch. Brad will be assisting with worship as part of the program. Contact the church office for more information or to sign up.

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.

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

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY:

The Chancel Choir
Bradley Thoreson, *Organist, Director of Music*
Claire Calohan, *Lay Leader*
The Reverend Julie Thompson, *Transitional Pastor*

ASSISTING TODAY:

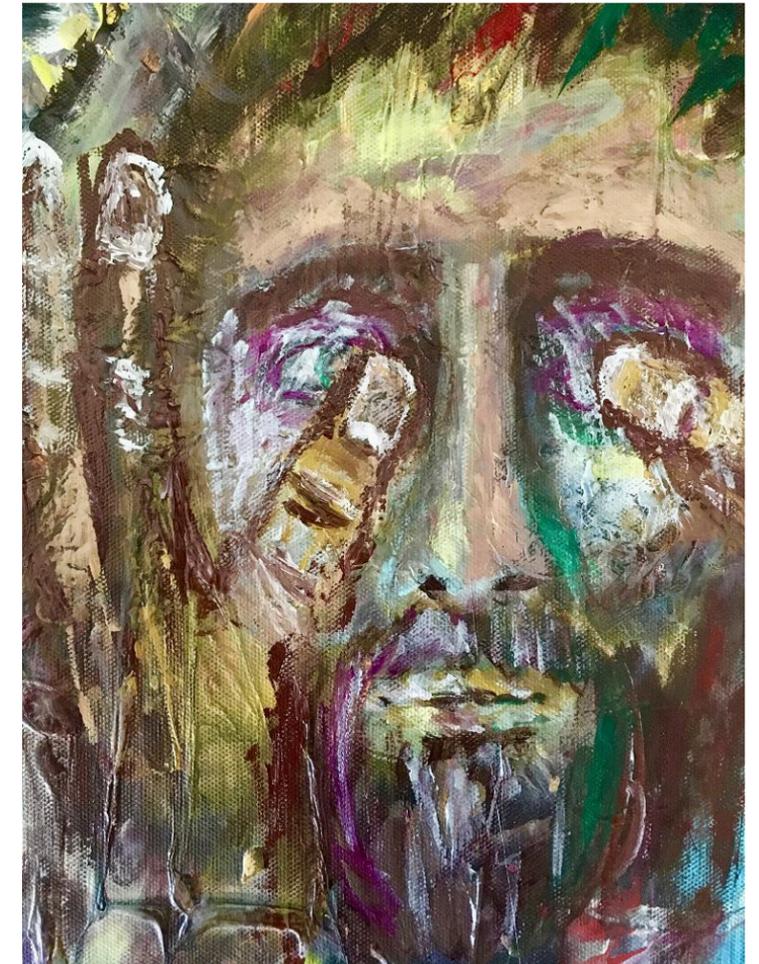
Peggy and Rich Kangas, *Greeters*
Rich Walker, *Church Safety Volunteer*

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK:

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



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MORNING WORSHIP

March 15, 2026

10 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST