



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 2024: **Don Mowat, Kathy Welsh**

Class Of 2025: **John Deegins, Rich Kangas**

Class Of 2026: **Ann Fyfe, Pam Leonard**

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
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BRAD THORESON

Music Director, Organist
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TERRI BOARDWAY

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HOURS: M-W: 8-12; Th: 10-2

Other days by appointment.

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WEBSITE:

www.firstchurchlh.org

GOD WELCOMES US

PRELUDE

"And Now the Tide Is Nigh at Hand"

Bradley Thoreson, organ

arr. Lynn Arthur Koch

CHIMING THE HOUR

WORDS OF WELCOME

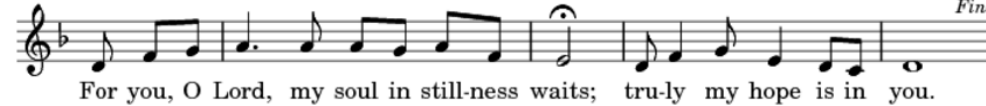
Rev. Lisa Martin

GATHERING SONG (Hymn 89, verses 1-3)

"My Soul in Stillness Waits"

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

Refrain



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Julian and Patty Wells

*WE REJOICE IN GOD'S WELCOME

Zephania 3

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice with all your heart!

The Lord, our God, is in our midst!

God will rejoice over us with gladness, and we will be renewed in the Lord's love!

God will exult over us with singing, as on a festival day!

God will change our shame into praise.

On that day, the Lord will save the lame and gather the outcast.

*HYMN 82

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

Loving God, we lift our voices in praise this day, for you rejoice over your people with gladness, and we are renewed in your love. Through the Advent of the Messiah, you come into our midst, longing for communion with us. Prepare our hearts to receive Christ when he comes, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Assured that God hears our prayers of repentance, let us turn our minds to the truth, confessing our sins to God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry, we do not live in peace with your creation or your people, we have not trusted your word, and we live in fear. Forgive us, we pray. Turn our shame into praise, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who came to live among us, as one of us, full of grace and truth. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, let us believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*JOYFUL RESPONSE (Hymn 583, sing once)

GLORIA, GLORIA

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

TRENTHAM

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

OLD TESTAMENT

Zephaniah 3:14-20

OT, p. 1159, softback

OT, p. 760, hardback

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

NT, p. 82, softback

NT, p. 829, hardback

MESSAGE

"What Should WE Do?"

Rev. Lisa Martin

GOD CALLS US TO ACT

HYMN 105

"People, Look East"

BESANCON

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER – Cathy Kivett Kearns

*DECLARATION OF FAITH

by Rev. Rebecca Harrison

We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed. Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that innocent suffering will continue to be a part of life. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. In our waiting and hoping we work, worship, and pray that peace, love, and joy will reign in our lives and in our world.

HYMN 92 (verse 1)

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

WAITING

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

HYMN 92 (verses 2 and 3)

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

WAITING

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.

Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

GOD SENDS US TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

*HYMN 143

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

*BENEDICTION & THREE-FOLD AMEN

*POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

arr. Wayne Fisher

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Chancel Choir

Bradley Thoreson, Music Director, Organist

The Reverend Lisa W. Martin, Pastor

ASSISTING TODAY

Greeter: John Deegins and Jan Rains

Church Safety Volunteer: Jim Fyfe

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Greeters: Bill and Deb Mease

Church Safety Volunteer: Rich Filippi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 15, 2024

Welcome to Worship! The season of Advent is upon us! May God bless us all as we anticipate the coming of Christ into the world and into our hearts and homes.

Today we welcome Cathy Kivett Kearns into the active membership of First Church! Cathy comes by Reaffirmation of Faith. If you are interested in learning more about church membership, please contact Pastor Lisa.

Everyone is welcome to our Holiday Feast & Festivity today! We love welcoming guests, so please join us as we celebrate relationships of caring and friendship in the faith!

Next Sunday we give thanks for Immanuel - God with us - through our Congregational Christmas Pageant! Always a wonderful reminder of God's saving love for young and old, the pageant is a blessing to cast and congregation. Everyone is welcome to take part; if you'd like to be an angel, shepherd, sheep, or wise guy, please let DeeDee Broadhead or Pastor Lisa know!

The Christmas Joy Offering is received next Sunday. This special offering helps offset emergency medical costs for retired clergy who don't have adequate insurance. It also supports college and seminary students who answer the call to ministry in the PCUSA. Offering envelopes will be in next Sunday's bulletin.

Thanks to everyone for a year of faithful giving! If you'd like to make a year-end donation toward our ministries, know that all gifts are used to further God's kingdom work here and in our community. Because of your generosity, we live into our discipleship with joy!

These Days and Our Daily Bread devotionals for January - March 2025 are available in the Narthex. Please take and be blessed, and take one to give to someone, too. Share the blessing!

Looking Ahead

- **Congregational Christmas Pageant & Christmas Joy Offering** - December 22
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion** - 4 pm, Dec. 24
- **The Nativity of the Lord** - December 25
- **1st Sunday of Christmas** - December 29



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven



MORNING WORSHIP

THIRD
SUNDAY
of ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024
10:00 AM

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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!

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST