



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.

When we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please know that all are welcome at the table of our Lord.

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

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Other days/times by appointment.

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GOD WELCOMES US

PRELUDE

"To God Be the Glory"

Bradley Thoreson, organ

arr. Lloyd Larson

CHIMING THE HOUR

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. Lisa Martin

GATHERING SONG (Hymn 628)

"Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord"

JE LOUERAI L'ETERNEL

*WE REJOICE IN GOD'S WELCOME

Psalm 29, Luke 3

The voice of God resounds upon the water.

The Spirit of the Lord hovers over the streams.

The Son of God is named, "Beloved".

And all who worship shout out "Praise"!

Ascribe to the Lord majesty and strength.

We will worship God in holy splendor!

*HYMN 475

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON

*PRAYER OF PRAISE

Holy God, you are the fount of our every blessing, and we praise you for your generosity and goodness! When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the world and all creation. May your Spirit, moving like a fount of blessing today, work in us to realize your vision of a world made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Grafted into Christ through the waters of baptism, we are called to repent of our wrongdoings and recommit ourselves to following God's way. Let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new beginnings, we are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our faith is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals that wound your creation and our lives. Forgive us, we pray. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us to one another, and bless us with your peace. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Grafted into Christ, we are loved into wholeness and granted strength as we put our trust in God. Brothers and sisters, let us believe and celebrate the good news of the Gospel:

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

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 581)

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

ANTHEM

"Down to the River to Pray"

Chancel Choir
Traditional, arr. Mary McDonald

(with "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying")

Ken Medema

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

THE EPISTLE

Acts 8:14-17

NT, p. 169, softback

NT, p. 888, hardback

THE GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

NT, p. 82, softback

NT, p. 829, hardback

MESSAGE

"Living Our Baptism"

Rev. Lisa Martin

GOD CALLS US TO ACT

*HYMN 375

"Shall We Gather at the River"

HANSON PLACE

*DECLARATION OF FAITH

(from A Declaration of Faith, PCUSA)

Throughout history God has made material things channels through which grace is understood and powerfully experienced. Out of the life of Jesus, the Church receives baptism as a sacrament of God's saving action. We believe that in baptism the Spirit demonstrates and confirms God's promise to include all creation in his gracious covenant, cleansing us from sin and giving us newness of life as participants in Christ's death and resurrection. Baptism sets us in the community of Christ's people and joins us to all other believers by a powerful bond. Baptism is a reminder that God loves us long before we love God. God's grace and our response to it are not tied to the moment of baptism, but continue and deepen throughout all our life.

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

God in Christ, by your epiphany your light shines upon us, giving us the fullness of salvation. Help us show your light to all we meet on life's way.

Lord, have mercy. Help us remember our baptism and be thankful!

God in Christ, you humbled yourself to be baptized, showing us the way of humility. Strengthen us to serve you in humility all the days of our life.

Lord, have mercy. Help us remember our baptism and be thankful!

God in Christ, by your baptism you cleansed us from our sins, making us children of God and siblings in the faith. Give the grace of being a child of God to all who seek you.

Lord, have mercy. Help us remember our baptism and be thankful!

God in Christ, by your baptism you opened the door of repentance to all who are baptized. Make us servants of your gospel in the world.

Lord, have mercy. Help us remember our baptism and be thankful!

God in Christ, your baptism revealed to us the glorious Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As the voice from heaven proclaimed you Beloved, and the Holy Spirit descended upon you like a dove, renew a heart of worship within all who are baptized.

Lord, have mercy. Help us remember our baptism and be thankful!

*HYMN 647

“Give Thanks”

GIVE THANKS

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 SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

*HYMN 700

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

IM GONNA LIVE

*BENEDICTION & THREE-FOLD AMEN

*POSTLUDE

“This Little Light of Mine”

arr. Bradley Thoreson

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 12, 2025

Welcome to worship! Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus as the prelude to his earthly ministry. We are glad you’re here and pray that today’s service will bless you to be light and hope for others in the week ahead. Please join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following worship!

The session gathers for its stated meeting today at 11:30 in the church office parlor. Did you know? All church members are welcome to sit in on session meetings. It’s a great way to learn more about the role of elders in the life of the congregation.

This afternoon at 2 pm, we are hosting a time of conversation about the leadership needs of Florida Presbytery. Representatives from the presbytery will be with us to hear our thoughts. Please attend this informative gathering; we’ll meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Our January lunch is next Sunday! This month’s theme is Soup & Sandwich for Saints! Bring soup, sandwiches, and/or desserts and be sure to invite a friend to join the fellowship, too!

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

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!

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

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

ASSISTING TODAY 1/12

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

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK 1/19

Greeters: Marcia Burden and Lisa Holloway
Church Safety Volunteer: Chris Stanley



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
of Lynn Haven

MORNING WORSHIP



Stained glass window, First Presbyterian Church, Lynn Haven, Florida

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12, 2025
10:00 AM

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST