



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 wonderful things happening here, and we would love for you to find your place in our community of faith!

ABOUT THE SERVICE

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 FPC 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. Lisa Martin, Moderator, **Rosa Stanley**, Clerk of Session

Elected spiritual leaders of this congregation:

John Deegins ('25), **Ann Fyfe** ('26), **Jennifer Hodges** ('27),
Rich Kangas ('25), **Bob Plank** ('26), **Kathy Welsh** ('27)

CHURCH STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The Rev. Lisa Martin
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Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8 AM-12 PM
Other days/times by appointment.

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GOD WELCOMES US

Prelude 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty' arr. Zach James

Chiming the Hour

Words of Welcome

Gathering Song 314 'Christ, Be Our Light!' CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

Refrain: Brad Thoreson, soloist

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered to-day.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

*(repeat Refrain)

*We Rejoice in God's Welcome

In the great grace of God, welcome.
God's peace be with us and with the world that God loves.
Today we continue our Lenten journey to the cross of Jesus and the empty tomb beyond.
We will face a God whose love is patient and boundless.
We will delve into the mystery of a God whose ways are not our ways, yet who longs for our health and growth in faith.
We bring our souls, hungering and thirsting, and we lean into God's presence here, where we will find our voice of praise.

***Hymn 664** 'Morning Has Broken' BUNESSAN

*Prayer of the Day

We raise our voices and we praise your holy name, O God.
This new day carries the potential for growth and new life.
Grant us your patient care, that we may worship you rightly and grow in grace as we continue toward Jerusalem. Amen.

Lenten Devotion, Week Three Bob Plank

Call to Confession

God is merciful and just, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (Exodus 34). Trusting in the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God.

Prayer of Confession

Patient and loving God, we confess that we are not patient. Too easily we give into temptation. We grumble at hardships rather than praise you for mercies we receive day after day. Forgive us, we pray. Put a new and right spirit within us and grant us all peace in believing. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Kyrie Traditional liturgical text; LAND OF REST, arr. Richard Proulx

Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.
Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.

Declaration of Forgiveness

God's love is sure and trustworthy, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to right relationship with God, others, and ourselves. Let us believe and celebrate the good news of the Gospel:

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

Anthem 'Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)' Text: John Newton
Music: Traditional American Melody
Additional Words and Music: Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio

GOD INVITES US TO LISTEN

Psalter Psalm 63:1-8 OT, p. 707, softback, OT, p. 463, hardback

Gospel Luke 13:1-9 NT, p. 103, softback, NT, p. 843, hardback

Message 'Divine Patience' The Reverend Lisa Martin

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

***Hymn 415** 'Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy' RESTORATION

***Declaration of Faith** from First UM Church, Oviedo, FL

We believe in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; who gives us steadfast love and shares with us our joy. God sustains us in our weakness and empowers us with divine strength.

We follow Jesus Christ, God's Son. His death is our victory, his resurrection is our hope; in him we find forgiveness and release from despair. We are saved through Christ.

We are guided by the Holy Spirit, God's presence in the world. That same Spirit calls us to be the church: to celebrate unity, to seek justice, and resist evil together.

We are disciples, pilgrim people. We joyfully covenant to walk together in love. Thanks be to God!

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 838 'Standing on the Promises' PROMISES
- *Benediction and Three-fold Amen
- *Postlude 'There Is a Wideness in God's Mercy' Don Hodell Chilcote

Notice anything different today? In keeping with liturgical tradition (though new to us), the organ will be used sparingly during Lent. This practice emphasizes the penitential nature of the season, fostering a more reflective atmosphere. The organ will accompany certain hymns and special occasions, while simpler music will lead us through this season of prayer and renewal.



Let's stay in touch! Sign up to receive **This Week @ First Church**, the **e-Alert**, **Worship Online**, and prayer concerns emails! Simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera. We promise, it's just a few emails each week.

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GOD CALLS US TO COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship! This Lent, we focus on God's love calling us to reflect on our spiritual lives. Are we spiritually strong? How can we grow to glorify God and love our neighbors? Our theme this season is **Renew, Remember, Rejoice**.

Kids Connection meets today following worship. All elementary age children are welcome to attend to grow in faith together!

TODAY! All Things Presbyterian: *What We Believe and What Difference Does It Make?* Pastor Lisa will lead two informal seminars on **March 23 and 30, from 11:45 am to 1 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy refreshments, then stay for some learning! No need to register—just come and let's explore together!

Lent devotionals are available in the narthex. Please take and be blessed! Also available are *These Days* and *Our Daily Bread* for April - June.

The Worship Committee will meet this Tuesday, 3/25, at 9:30 in the church office parlor.

Ladies: You're invited to the fun *Do Nothing* group this Tuesday! We will gather at noon at the pavilion at Porter Park for a brown-bag swap lunch. Bring your favorite lunch in a brown bag. Once swapped you might not get yours! Let's enjoy fun, sistership, and the surprise of food! Invite a friend and come "do nothing" in the great Lynn Haven outdoors! Check with Kathy Welsh for more information.

2-Cents-a-Meal offering will be received next Sunday! All proceeds support food insecurity ministries of First Church and Florida Presbytery. Thanks for giving!

It's Summer Camp time! Dogwood Acres Retreat Center and Summer Camp, located just 40 minutes north of Lynn Haven, has posted its summer camp options for children and youth in Florida Presbytery. To learn more, click the QR code with your phone's camera!



Fig Fun Fact: The oldest fig tree in the world is 2,300 years old, in Sri Lanka!



RENEW | REMEMBER | REJOICE



Port Jackson Fig Tree, Lloyd Rees (1895-1988), Pencil on paper. © Lloyd Rees Estate/Licensed by Viscopy, Collection of The University of Queensland

MORNING WORSHIP
March 23, 2025
10 AM
The Third Sunday in Lent

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

ASSISTING TODAY 3/23
Kelley and Atleigh Fiddler, Greeters
Bruce MacKay, Church Safety Volunteer

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK 3/30
Marcia Burden and Charles Willis, Greeters
Bill Mease, Church Safety Volunteer

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS | EPIPHANY
LENT | EASTER | PENTECOST