

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 16, 2018 ✕ 11:00 am

✕ *The Season of the Church Year: The Third Sunday of Advent*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PASTORAL SENTENCES

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

ADVENT CHORUS

*Advent Candles*  
See Insert

Glenn & Susan Eernisse

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. & Mrs. Alex & Sarah Grace Britton, Corbett & Wells

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES: Hope, Peace & Joy

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

The Britton Family, Leaders

Loving God, on this third Sunday of Advent,  
We thank You for the hope, peace, and joy You unfailingly offer us.  
As we journey toward Christmas,

**help us to experience the creative power of hope.**

Guard our hearts and minds in the peace that passes understanding.

**Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared.**

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by You, that we may walk in the light of Christ.

**In Jesus' name. Amen.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE 127 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Rev. Thompson

Anthems

*A Christmas Gift for You*

Nan Grantham

*Advent Candles*

Glenn & Susan Eernisse

*Everybody Sing, Jesus is Born*

Milton LeDoux

The Music Friends

People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

**Our prayer is that they grow up to be like Jesus—strong and brave,  
full of grace and truth, and that we will help them.**

✕ ✕ ✕

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 1:15-17; 2:1-6

Ms. Peggy Springfield

In Pew Bible, page 61 of Old Testament

This is the word of God for the people of God; **thanks be to God.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Dr. Gilliam

+HYMN 124

*The First Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

✕ ✕ ✕

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ms. Springfield

OFFERTORY

*Bells Are Ringing*

Joanne & Milton LeDoux

*More Than a Baby*

Ruth E. Schram

The Children Choristers

+DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.

✕ ✕ ✕

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 2:1-12

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, page 2 of New Testament

This is the word of God for the people of God; **thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Dr. Gilliam

SERMON

Christmas with Matthew:

Dr. Gilliam

*Déjà vu*

INVITATION

*It is our tradition to offer a time or response near the end of worship. A response may take the shape of a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and desire to be baptized, a request for church membership, or the sharing of a prayer concern or praise which may be communicated with the congregation or safely kept between the sharer and minister.*

*Please respond as you feel led during the Hymn of Response.*

+HYMN OF RESPONSE 148 *What Child Is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

INGATHERING OF CBF GLOBAL MISSIONS OFFERING

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Gilliam

+CHIMES OF THE TRINITY AND POSTLUDE

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

*We give thanks for those caring for our young ones today in Extended Session while we worship:*

*Babies: Kari Pierce & Taylor F. Rose  
Ages 1 & 2: Bill & Debbie Magette  
Age 3 – Kindergarten: Harriet Byrum & Claudia Morris  
Floater: Melanie Byrum*



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OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson  
*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III  
(Trey)  
*Pastor*

Mrs. Elizabeth Villegas  
*Minister to Youth &  
Children*

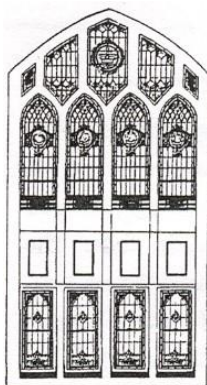
Mr. W. Bland Baker  
*Music Associate*

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom  
*Pastor Emeritus*

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Main & West Streets ♦ Post Office Box 649 ♦ Ahoskie, North Carolina 27910  
[www.fbcahoskie.org](http://www.fbcahoskie.org) ♦ (252) 332-4003 ♦ [office@fbcahoskie.org](mailto:office@fbcahoskie.org)

*The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship congregation.*



# A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 16, 2018

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

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## ✘ Global Missions Offering Ingathering

*At the end of today's worship service you will have the opportunity to give to our annual Global Missions Offering which supports the mission endeavors of our denominational partner, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.*

## ✘ Christmas Open House at the Gilliams'

December 16 from 2:30 to 5:30 pm

*Trey and Lou Ann invite you to their home for a time of good food and fellowship. Their address is 620 Lakeview Dr., Murfreesboro.*

## ✘ Christmas Cantata – *Appalachian Winter*

*Presented by the Christmas Choir, Chair, the Vocal Ensemble, and Instrumentalists.*

▪December 16 at 7:00 pm      ▪December 23 at 11:00 am

*On the evening of December 16, a Homemade Christmas Cookie reception will follow the cantata performance. Please bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share. It would be helpful if you would bring them on a serving tray.*

## ✘ We Welcome a New Baby

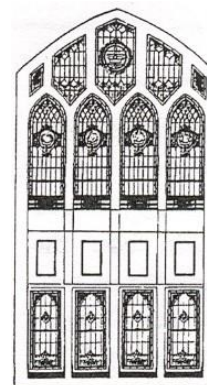
*The rose on the communion table is in honor of the December 11<sup>th</sup> birth of Payton Aubree Kinlaw, to Ian and Angela Kinlaw. The proud brother is Jackson, and the equally proud FBC grandparents are Ernie and Susan Keel.*

## ✘ Called Church Conference

December 23 at 9:30 am

*Church members will gather to discuss a recommendation from our deacons that we call the Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam as our full-time pastor. Details about this recommendation have been mailed to each church member's home; copies are also available in the church office.*

- continued on other side -



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## ❖ Operation Inasmuch Christmas Day Lunch

Serving from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

*We are honored to host once again our annual Operation Inasmuch Christmas Day Lunch. We are pleased to partner with:*

Ahoskie Christian Center  
Ahoskie United Methodist Church  
Brantley's Grove Baptist Church  
Canaan Missionary Baptist Church  
Church At the Crossroads  
First Presbyterian Church

Jordan Grove Baptist Church  
Open Arms Church  
Pleasant Plains Baptist Church  
Second Baptist Church, Union  
St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church  
St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

*... to provide a free, delicious, hot meal, and fellowship for anyone in our community who would like to come.*

*First Baptist's responsibilities include cooking a turkey, preparing a large pan of dressing (roaster pan size), and providing cakes for dessert. We will need 13 cakes total, and, as of December 13, have all but 4 accounted for. If you'd like to volunteer for any of these, please sign up on the bulletin board on the 2nd floor hallway or call the church office.*

*And if you'd like to help with set up, serving, delivery of meals to the homebound, or clean up, please sign up for that too.*

### *Advent Candles*

Glenn & Susan Eernisse



1. Ad -vent can - dles glow-ing bright, we give thanks for hope and light.  
2. Ad -vent can - dles glow-ing bright, we give thanks for peace and light.  
3. Ad -vent can - dles glow-ing bright, we give thanks for joy and light.  
4. Ad -vent can - dles glow-ing bright, we give thanks for love and light.

*Christmas Eve: 5. Ad -vent can - dles glow-ing bright, we give thanks for Christ to- night.*



Hope and peace and joy and love, we give thanks to God a - bove.

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CALL TO WORSHIP Mr. & Mrs. Alex & Sarah Grace Britton, Corbett & Wells

Reader stands at pulpit.

Other stands at Advent wreath.

On the first Sunday of Advent the candle of hope was lighted. [*Light the 1<sup>st</sup> candle which is the only one that has burned.*] Because we were unable to worship together last Sunday due to the snow, today we will light two candles.

The first is the candle of peace [*Light the 2<sup>nd</sup> candle.*] We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it's almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. Even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities and offering His peace.

The candle of joy represents what is perhaps the most visible symbol of Christmas. We see it in the children, we feel it in the music, we experience it as we gather for worship. But too often we let the stress and fast pace of the season push joy to the side. Joy is like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today, as we light the candle of joy, [*Light the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle.*] let us strengthen our connect with the joy that God has already planted in us. And may we share this joy with all the world.

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