



THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 20, 2020 ✠ 11:00 am

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PASTORAL SENTENCES

Rev. Dr. Trey Gilliam

ORGAN PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Love

Miss Liza Pierce

Light a Candle for All to See

Lloyd Larson

Jordan Martin, Vicky Overman and Anita Thompson

LORD, I will sing about your great love forever. For all time to come, I will tell how faithful you are. I will tell everyone that your love stands firm forever. I will tell them that you are always faithful, even in heaven itself. – Psalm 89:1-2

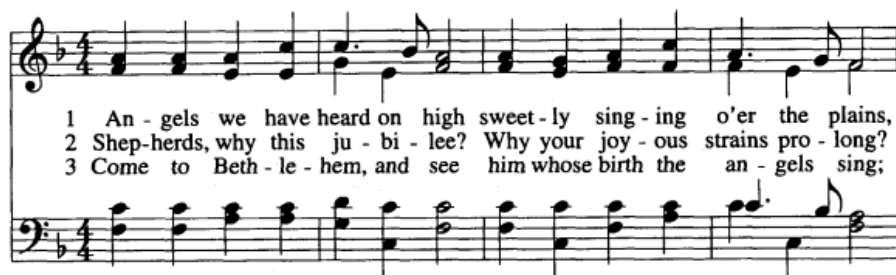
The LORD appeared to us in the past. He said, "I have loved you with a love that lasts forever. I have kept on loving you with a kindness that never fails. – Jeremiah 31:3

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. – John 3:16

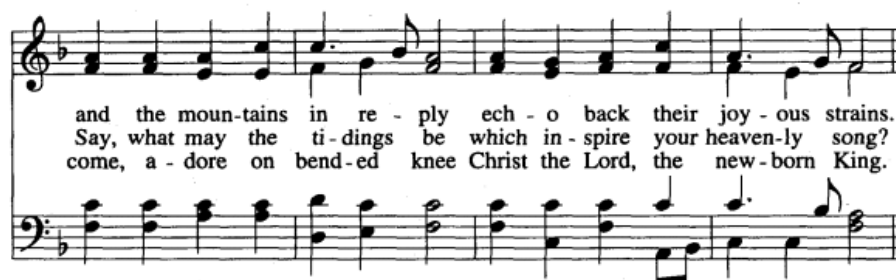
This is the word of God for the people of God;
Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Miss Pierce



1 An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem, and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say, what may the ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Rev. Thompson

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.**

✂ ✂ ✂

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 1:38-49

Dr. Gilliam

This is the word of God for the people of God;

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Okay

Dr. Gilliam

At the conclusion of the sermon, we may observe a time of silence to reflect on all that has been experienced while we've worshiped together.

✂ ✂ ✂

+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Mr. Andy Woodard

As we worship God with our offerings, this is our prayer:

**You are the God who creates us,
the Christ who redeems us,
the Spirit who fills us with hope.**

**May we and our gifts be instruments of Your purposes here on earth.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

+ADVENT DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL

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.

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

✂ ✂ ✂

INVITATION

It is our tradition to offer a time of 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.

SOLO

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

arr. Dan Forrest

Jordan Martin

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

*Refrain: Hail, thou ever-blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem."*

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Gilliam

+CHORAL RESPONSE

MUELLER

Jordan Martin, Vicky Overman and Anita Thompson

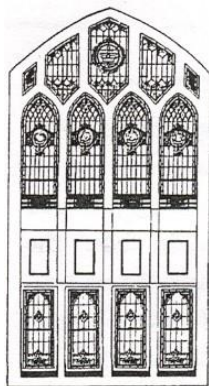
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there. Amen.

+CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

As the chimes strike three times—in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—our corporate worship ends, and our opportunity begins to be the presence of Christ in the world, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

+Those who are able are invited to stand.



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 20, 2020

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✦ Worship Notes

Today we observe the fourth Sunday of Advent and light the candle of Love. Each Sunday, as we journey toward the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas, we progressively light the Advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

In order to provide a safe and healthy environment for all worshipers, please abide by the following guidelines.

- ◆Masks should be worn at all times, everywhere in the building.
- ◆Though there will be no congregational singing, you're invited to stand and sing in your heart to the Lord.
- ◆Should you need to exit during the service, please exit by the doors on either side of the chancel.
- ◆You're encouraged to sit and reflect during the postlude.
- ◆Offering – please place your offering in the plates located at the doors on either side of the chancel.
- ◆Please depart row by row, beginning with rows nearest the chancel. You may exit by the doors on either side of the chancel, or the vestibule door at the West & Main corner. Please practice social distancing as you depart.

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✠ 2020—2021 Global Missions Offering

Our goal for this annual Cooperative Baptist Fellowship offering is \$5000. 100% of our gifts go to CBF missionaries in the US and around the world. Though it will be received through March 2021, we are encouraged to contribute during the Advent and Christmas seasons in thanks for the gift of Christ to the world.

✠ Christmas Eve Worship Services

We are offering two Christmas Eve worship services in order to provide appropriate space for social distancing. The 5:00 pm service is full; there is room for more in the 7:00 pm service. Contact the church office to make your reservation.

✠ Wednesday In-Person Activities

... are on break for the holidays.

✠ Online Giving Now Available

... on our church website (www.fbcahoskie.org) and on our church Facebook page.

✠ Make Your Reservation for In-Person Worship

If you would like to participate in Sunday worship, please make your reservation by calling the church office (252) 332-4003 or emailing Anita Thompson at anita@fbcahoskie.org by 5:00 pm each Friday. A firm number is needed to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place.

Nursery Needed for Your Family? When you reserve your place for worship, also reserve a nursery spot: 1-2 year old class and 3-5 year old class. We will not use the 2020-2021 Extended Session schedule yet; therefore, we need 2 to 4 volunteers each Sunday. We also need two volunteers to take temperatures and two volunteers to greet. Please let the church office know if you can help.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

Mr. W. Bland Baker
Music Associate/Pianist

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

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Miss Bridget Deveney
Music Associate/Organist