



The Worship of God ✠ July 4, 2021 ✠ Ordinary Time

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Main & West Streets ♦ Post Office Box 649 ♦ Ahoskie, North Carolina 27910
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The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship congregation.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

July 4, 2021 ✠ 11:00 am

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: Ordinary Time*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PASTORAL SENTENCES

Rev. Thompson

We gather not to be blessed,

but to bless.

We gather not to receive,

but to give.

We gather to bless God,

and to give thanks and praise to God

for the life, ministry, death, resurrection,

and coming again of Jesus the Christ.

Now let us be about our business.

Amen.

ORGAN PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Ms. Jennifer Byrd & Sophia, Acolytes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 62

Dr. Eley Whitehead

Let all that we are wait quietly before God, for our hope is in Him.

He alone is our rock and our salvation,

our fortress where we will not be shaken.

Our victory and honor come from God alone.

He is our refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach us.

O my brothers and sisters, let us trust in God at all times.

and pour out our hearts to Him who is our rock and our refuge.

INTROIT

The Solid Rock

arr. Tom Trenney

Jim Wiggins

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Dr. Whitehead

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.**



EPISTLE LESSON

Galatians 5:1, 13-26

Dr. Claudia Morris

In Pew Bible, page 232 of New Testament

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Thompson

Our Gracious God, we thank You today for the nation in which we live,
and for the freedoms which are ours. We recognize that true freedom comes
through You, that our ultimate loyalty belongs to You, and that our true
identity is bestowed upon us by You. Every day is a gift, every breath a moment
to give You praise, every hour one in which to live what You command.

**Save us from that litany of destructive behaviors which St. Paul outlined.
Lead us instead to lives which bear the fruit of Your spirit.**

Where we are guided by prejudice, **fill us with love.**
Where we are guided by pessimism, **fill us with joy.**
Where we are guided by misunderstanding, **fill us with peace.**
Where we are guided by superficial quick fixes, **fill us with patience.**
Where we are guided by self-interest, **fill us with kindness.**
Where we are guided by apathy, **fill us with goodness.**
Where we are guided by convenience, **fill us with faithfulness.**
Where we are guided by complacency, **fill us with meekness.**
Where we are guided by temptation, **fill us with self-control.**

On this weekend when we celebrate our country's independence,
we give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy in this land:
**the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;
the ability to speak what is on our minds,
and the freedom to worship in our chosen traditions.**

Help us to recognize that such marks of human dignity are for all people,
**and that You, O Lord, love and value every person and
place You have made.**

May our patriotism be subject to Your law, O God,
our loyalty to country never higher than our obedience to Your will,
**our pride of nation always secondary
to our humble attempts to live the way of Christ.**

Help us to remember that all people are created equal,
because You, Lord, created us all and called us good.
May our actions, laws, and hearts reflect the character of our Creator.

Knowing that You are Alpha and Omega,
we ask for the wisdom to properly order all else.
This is our prayer offered in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

All Sing: *God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her through the night with a light from
above.
From the mountains to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam.
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.*

✠ ✠ ✠

+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Dr. Morris

As we worship God with our offerings, this is our prayer:
**O God, who is the source of all good things, we bring to You our gifts.
Enable us, along with our offerings, to give You the love of our hearts
and the service of our lives; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

+DOXOLOGY

GLORIA PATRI

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.

✠ ✠ ✠

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 22:15-22 Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
In Pew Bible, page 30 of New Testament

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

SERMON

With God in the Intersection

Dr. Croom

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.

INVITATION

Dr. Croom

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.

+HYMN OF RESPONSE 71*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

+BENEDICTION

+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.

+PIANO POSTLUDE

America the Beautiful

arr. Melody Bober

Bland Baker & Anita Thompson

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God in memory of Larry S. Overton, by Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Debbie Magette.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam
III
Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Mr. W. Bland Baker
Music Associate/Pianist

Miss Bridget Deveney
Music Associate/Organist