

The Worship of God ✠ October 31, 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

October 31, 2021 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PASTORAL SENTENCES

Dr. Gilliam

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 worship together with zeal. **Amen.**

ORGAN PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Mr. William Alexander & Abby, Acolytes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mrs. Gretchen Zoch

+HYMN OF PRAISE 341

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

All: For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Women: For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

All: For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

Men: For the church that evermore lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

All: For Thyself, best Gift Divine, to our world so freely given,
for that great, great love of Thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.



CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Rev. Anita 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

John 15:9-12

Dr. Claudia Morris

In Pew Bible, page 134 of New Testament

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

Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Thompson

SONG OF ASSURANCE *Oh How He Loves You and Me* with

arr. John Carter

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

The Women's Ensemble



+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Dr. Morris

Please Note: During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not passing offering plates in our usual manner, instead, you are encouraged to place your offering in one of the offering plates located at each sanctuary entrance.

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

You are the God who creates us,

the Christ who redeems us,

the Holy Spirit who fills us with hope.

May we and our gifts be instruments of Your purposes here on earth.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 98

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, pages 678 of Old Testament

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Is it Time?

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.

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.

+HYMN OF RESPONSE 295 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* NETTLETON

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Gilliam

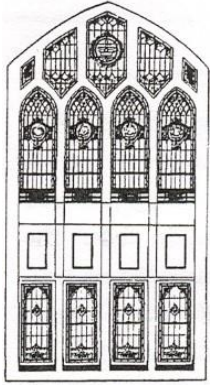
+CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

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.

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Stuart & Sandra Pierce in honor of all our grandchildren, Fletcher, Camille, Liza, Henry, Dempsey, Bennett, Stuart, Lucy, and Libby. Thank you to everyone who shares in our lives.



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

October 31, 2021

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✦ Worship Notes

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that all worshipers mask for the entire worship service. Extra masks are available at our West St. entrance.

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

Babies: Jenni Byrd & Nancy Freeman

Ages 1 & 2: Jamie Burns & Betty Cooper

Age 3 - K: Bryan & Jessica Britton

✦ 2022 Deacon Nomination Results

We give thanks for the following persons who received the most nominations and have agreed to serve in deacon ministry. We will vote on these five persons on Sunday, December 12, 2021.

Nancy Freeman

Lee Taylor Rose

Walt Pierce

Stuart Pierce

Eley Whitehead

✦ Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

It is time to prepare for this year's Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Our church goal is 100 boxes! Children need great joy now more than ever. Most of all, they need the hope found only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All boxes are due at FBCA between November 15-22, 2021. For more information, please contact Melanie Byrum, OCC Coordinator for FBC.

✦ Save the Dates

♦ Sunday, November 7th - *All Saints' Sunday*

We remember and give thanks for our FBCA brothers and sisters who have died since last All Saints' Sunday.

♦ Sunday, November 21st - *Children's Sabbath*

Theme: *Short Stories—Tall Truths*

Our age 3 through grade 5 children will lead us in worship.

♦Sunday, December 12th - *Christmas Cantata at 11:00 AM*

♦Sunday, December 19th - *Christmas Cantata at 6:00 PM*

✦ This Week's Schedule

Today, October 31st

9:45 AM - Sunday School

11:00 AM - Worship

2:00 PM - Chair Music Ensemble Rehearsal

Monday, November 1st

3:00 PM - Staff Meeting

5:45 PM - Girl Scouts

Tuesday, November 2nd

10:00 AM - WMU Group 4

Wednesday, November 5th

10:00 AM - Ahoskie Garden Club

5:00 PM - Children's Music & Missions

• Age 3 - K, Room 105 • Grades 1 - 5, Choir Room

6:00 PM - Youth Group Gathering (Grades 6 - 12), FBCA Annex

6:00 PM - Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM - Christmas Choir Rehearsal

7:30 PM - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

8:00 PM - Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

Friday, November 5th

8:30 AM - Christian Women's Job Corps

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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