

*"Master, now You are dismissing Your servant in peace, according to Your word;
for my eyes have seen Your salvation,
which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel."
- Simeon, Luke 2:29-32*

The Worship of God ✠ December 26, 2021 ✠ 1st Sunday of Christmas

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 26, 2021 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The First Sunday of Christmas*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PASTORAL SENTENCES

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

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.**

ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM

Sophia Grace Byrd

Dr. Gilliam

ORGAN PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ms. Peggy Springfield

O, that our tongues were like bells to ring out the joy,
and our hands like drums to beat a holy rhythm.

O, that our voices sounded like the heavenly choir,
and our feet were lively enough to dance our praise.

O, that our knees were strong enough to kneel forever in wonder,
and our hearts could forever ponder the joy, and share the love.

INTROIT

Ring the Bells
Vicky Overman, Soloist

Harry Bollback

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Ms. Springfield

Holy God, take who we are and what we have to offer.
And help us this day to sing, like the choir of angels, in exultation and joy. Amen.



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

Colossians 3:12-17

Mrs. Dana Wiggins

In Pew Bible, page 246 of Old Testament

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

Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Thompson



+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Mrs. Wiggins

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:

May these gifts bring a sense of wonder to those whose vision is limited;

may they bring peace to those who are in conflict;

may they bring friendship to those who are alone;

may they bring love those who feel rejected.

Bless these gifts, O God, which we give in thanksgiving for the gift of the Christ Child.

Amen.

+CHRISTMAS DOXOLOGY

GREENSLEEVES

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.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary. Amen.



NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 2:22-38

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, pages 71 & 72 of New Testament

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A Man, a Woman, and the Christ

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 127 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

+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

Please be seated for the Postlude.

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson

Associate Pastor

Mr. W. Bland Baker

Music Associate/Pianist

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III

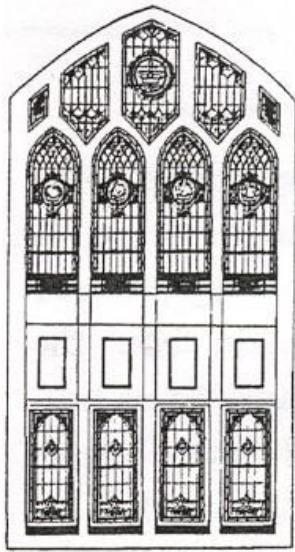
Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom

Pastor Emeritus

Miss Bridget Deveney

Music Associate/Organist



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 26, 2021

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✦ Worship Notes

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

Babies:	Debbie & Keith Rawls
Ages 1 & 2:	Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene
Age 3 - K:	Josh, Jessica & Lily Ann Brinkley

✦ This Week's Calendar

Today, December 26th

No afternoon or evening activities.

Monday, December 27th

3:00 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 28th

11:00 AM Ahoskie Woman's Club Memorial Service for Maxine Britt

No afternoon or evening activities.

Sunday, January 2, 2022

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

No afternoon or evening activities.

✦ Global Missions Offering

100% of your gifts to the annual Global Missions Offering supports the long-term presence of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries serving in the United States and around the world. If you would like to know more about CBF's mission work, you are invited to pick up a copy of Prayers of the People 2021-2022 which may be found near the sanctuary entrances.

✦ Deacon Ordination | January 9, 2022

A Deacon Ordination Service is planned for January 9, 2022 during our worship service. Those to be ordained are Stuart Pierce, Walt Pierce, and Lee Taylor Rose. They, along with previously ordained deacons, Nancy Freeman and Eley Whitehead, begin serving a three-year term January 2022.

❖ Adult Bible Study & Soup Supper

How Did We Get Our Bible?

Month of January | Wednesdays at 6 PM | In the Fellowship Hall

Why is the Gospel of Matthew in the Bible but the Gospel of Thomas is not? This question, and other questions will be addressed. If you're not familiar with the Gospel of Thomas, you're encouraged to check it out. A link to it is on our First Baptist Church Facebook page. Coffee, crackers, and various flavors of soup will be served! Come join us!

❖ Looking Ahead

■ Wednesday, January 5th - Regular programming resumes.

5:00 PM Children's Music & Missions

6:00 PM Youth Group Gathering

6:00 PM Adult Bible Study

7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

■ Sunday, January 9th

2:00 PM Chairo Music Ensemble rehearsals resume.