

# *The First Sunday of Advent*



The Worship of God ✦ November 27, 2022 ✦ The First Sunday of Advent

## 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

November 27, 2022 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

*Advent is . . .*

*“a period to smooth what was rough and to straighten what was crooked in the soul.”*

- Celebrate Advent

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS  
III

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam

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.**

PIANO PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Mr. Henry Pierce & Mr. Bennett Pierce, Acolytes

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

*Peace*

Mrs. Jamie Burns  
Mr. Bennett Pierce

INTROIT

*An Advent Song*  
The Christmas Choir

arr. Joseph M. Martin

God is hope. God is peace.  
God is love. God is joy!  
Hope everlasting, peace that endureth!  
Love never ending, joy from the heart of God!

Long we have waited for the Child of promise, the chosen King of Israel.  
Long we have waited for the blessed Redeemer, the day we see Emmanuel!

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mr. Henry Pierce

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,  
we open all the dark places in our lives to the healing light of Christ.  
**Teach us the peace that passes all understanding.**  
**Prepare our hearts to be transformed by You,**  
**that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

## HYMN 127

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

✠ ✠ ✠

## 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.**

## +ADVENT PRAYER

Hymn 110

*Away in a Manger*  
Stanza 3

MUELLER

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
close by me for 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.

✠ ✠ ✠

## +LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Mr. Rick Burns

As we worship God with our offerings, this is our prayer:  
**God of Glory, we eagerly anticipate the joy-filled celebration of Jesus' birth.**  
**As we open ourselves again to this holy wonder, we offer You our gifts.**  
**May the ministries they support help others to receive the saving message**  
**of the Christ Child, in whose name, we pray. Amen.**

## PIANO OFFERTORY

## +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.

✠ ✠ ✠

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON      Isaiah 2:1-5

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, page 773 of Old Testament

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*Perfect Peace*

Dr. Gilliam

*At the conclusion of the sermon, we will 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 79    *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*    VENI EMMANUEL

## +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.*

## RECESSIONAL OF THE LIGHT

## PIANO POSTLUDE

*Please be seated for the postlude.*

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

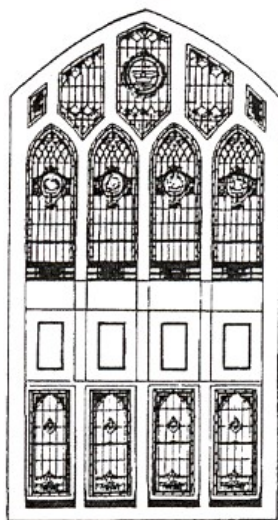
## OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson  
*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III  
*Pastor*

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

Mrs. Leah Newsome  
*Pianist*



# A Window on the Weeks Ahead

November 27, 2022

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

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## ✠ Worship Notes

*The Season of Advent* – Today we begin a new church year with the observance of the season of Advent. The word “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During this season, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for His coming again. In Advent, we are reminded that we live between the first and the second coming of the Lord.

Advent encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. It presents an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return. – UMC & PCUSA

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

Ages 1 & 2: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene

Ages 3 & 4: Michelle Boyd & Sarah Jenkins

Kindergarten: Kimmi & Nathan Pierce

## ✠ Global Missions Offering Ingathering - Sunday, December 11, 2022

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 2022-2023* which may be found near the sanctuary entrances.

## ✠ Annual Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 18, 2022 | 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

The Music Friends (Age 3-K), Children Choristers (Grades 1-5), Chairo, the Christmas Choir, and the Vocal Ensemble will all lead us in a celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

## ✠ Operation Christmas Child

We offer our thanks to Melanie Byrum, our OCC Coordinator, for her faithful work and dedication to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry.

## ✦ 2023 Budget

Discussion | Wednesday, November 30, 2022 | 5:30 PM

Vote | Sunday, December 4, 2022 | 11:00 AM

*On Friday, November 18, 2022, the proposed 2023 Budget was mailed to resident church members. It is the result of the hard work of the finance committee, and of the deacons, who have approved this proposal. We ask that you now study and prayerfully consider the proposed budget, in preparation for a churchwide meeting on **Wednesday, November 30, at 5:30 PM**, at which time the budget will be presented and discussed, but without a vote.*

*On **Sunday, December 4**, at the start of the 11 AM worship service, the church membership will convene in the sanctuary for a vote on the proposed 2023 budget, but without discussion.*

## ✦ This Week's Calendar

**Today, November 27**

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

2:00 PM Chair O Rehearsal

2:45 PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal

**Monday, November 28**

3:00 PM Staff Meeting

**Tuesday, November 29**

6:00 PM Christian Discipleship Team Meeting, Gilliam Residence

**Wednesday, November 30**

5:15 PM Children's Music & Missions

5:30 PM 2023 Budget Discussion

6:15 PM Youth Group Gathering

7:00 PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal

8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

**Friday, December 2**

8:30 AM Christian Women's Job Corps, The Gathering Place (Formerly 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian)

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