

The Second Sunday of Advent



The Worship of God ✦ December 4, 2022 ✦ Second Sunday of Advent

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 4, 2022 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

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.

PIANO PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Hope

Mrs. Lou Ann Gilliam
Miss Lily Ann Brinkley

INTROIT

An Advent Song
The Christmas Choir & Children

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!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mrs. Gilliam

Loving God, as we journey through 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.
Help us firmly place our hope You.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by You,
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

+HYMN 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL



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.**

+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

Miss Brinkley

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.**

CHORAL OFFERTORY

Glory (Let There Be Peace)
Chairo

Maher, Stevens, Popadic
arr. David Wise

+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

Romans 15:4-13

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, page 199 of New Testament

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

SERMON

In the Meantime

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 99 *View the Present Through the Promise* AR HYD Y NOS

+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.

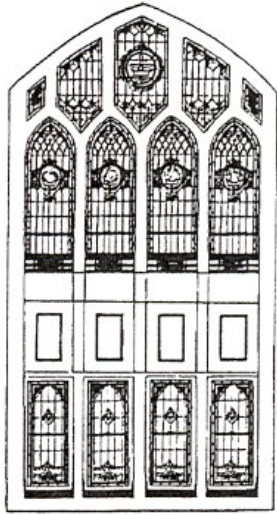
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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

December 4, 2022

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✦ Worship Notes

The Season of Advent – Today we observe the second Sunday of Advent, and will light the candle of hope. The word “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” “Advent is the spiritual season of hope par excellence, and in this season, the whole Church is called to be hope, for itself and for the world.” - Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger).

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

Ages 1 & 2: Nancy Baker & Judy H. Pierce

Ages 3 & 4: Brian & Victoria Outlaw

Kindergarten: Landis & Will Chamblee

✦ 2023 Budget

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

On November 30, 2022, a discussion was held regarding the proposed 2023 Budget. Today, at the start of the worship service, the church membership will vote on the proposed 2023 budget, but without discussion.

✦ 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.

✦ 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.

✦ Financial Secretary Information

On November 15, 2022, Janice Cesil, our Financial Secretary, completed her tenure with us. We are grateful for her ministry with us, and wish her well in her new endeavors. Currently, church volunteers are assisting with our financial matters. We ask for your patience during this time. If you know of someone who might be interested in the part-time position, contact Claire Presley, Personnel Committee chair.

❖ Operation Inasmuch Christmas Day Lunch

The Gathering Place | December 25, 2022 | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

We are once again pleased to partner with other area churches to provide a free, delicious, hot meal, and fellowship for anyone in our community who would like to come. The responsibilities of First Baptist Church include cooking and slicing a turkey, preparing a large pan of dressing (roaster pan size), and providing 15 cakes for dessert. Each cake should feed approximately twenty people. If you'd like to volunteer for any of the listed items, please sign up on the bulletin board on the 2nd floor hallway.

All food items need to be at The Gathering Place by 10:00 AM on Christmas Day. If items need to be delivered prior to that day, or if you'd like to assist with set up, serving, or delivery of meals to the homebound, please contact Pat Byrd at (252) 209-4301.

❖ Capital Campaign Project Update

The painters are here, and the flooring is coming soon! We are moving along with our ground floor renovations and are looking forward to the day that all of us can gather in those spaces again for fellowship and fun. As you can understand, our Capital Campaign Fund is decreasing quickly as the invoices are streaming in. Thus, it has become necessary for all outstanding pledges to be paid as soon as possible. Of course, additional donations are always appreciated.

If you are unsure about amount pledged, please contact the church office. Your name and number will be recorded, and someone will get in touch with you to address your questions. This churchwide, cooperative effort is remarkable and provides all of us with another opportunity to be grateful as we continue to serve.

❖ This Week's Calendar

Tuesday, December 6

10:00 AM WMU Groups 2 & 4

Wednesday, December 7

5:15 PM Children's Music & Missions

6:15 – 7:30 PM Youth Christmas Party, Home of Pate & Anna Pierce

7:00 PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal

8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

Friday, December 9

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

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