

The Third Sunday of Advent



The Worship of God ✦ December 11, 2022 ✦ Third 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

December 11, 2022 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

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.**

PIANO PRELUDE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *Joy* Mr. & Mrs. Walt & Mary Page Pierce
Mr. Dempsey, Miss Stuart, & Miss Libby Pierce

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

Pierce Family

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 in You.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained but must be shared.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by You,
that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

+HYMN 125

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA



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.**

+GLOBAL MISSIONS INGATHERING

*During the singing of the hymn, you are invited to come forward and place your offering
in the boxes provided.*

Hymn 110

Away in a Manger

MUELLER



+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Pierce Family

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 *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*
The Vocal Ensemble

arr. Marianne Forman

+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 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, page 221 of New Testament

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

God in Christ

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 148 *What Child Is This*

GREENSLEEVES

+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.

PIANO POSTLUDE

Please be seated for the postlude.

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

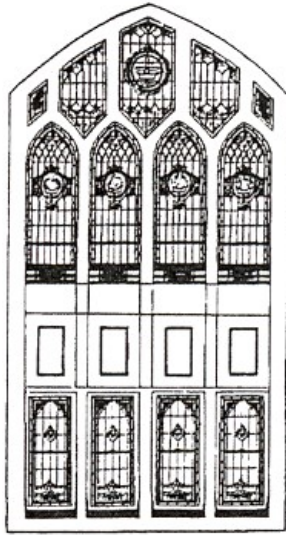
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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 11, 2022

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✠ Worship Notes

The Season of Advent – Today we observe the third Sunday of Advent, and light the candle of joy to burn brightly alongside the candles of peace and hope. The word “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” “Joy is an act of resistance against despair and its forces.” - Willie Jennings, Professor of Theology at Duke Divinity School

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

Ages 1 & 2: Joyce Leary & Taylor F. Rose

Ages 3 & 4: Elizabeth Davis, Ben & Leah Woodard

Kindergarten: Melanie Byrum & Winnie Matthews

✠ Deacon Confirmation | Today, December 11, 2022

At the beginning of the worship hour, members will have the opportunity to confirm the following nominees for deacon ministry: Josh Brinkley, Jamie Burns, Austine Evans, Betty Joyner, and Jim Wiggins. They will serve a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2023.

✠ Global Missions Offering Ingathering | Today, December 11, 2022

At the conclusion of the Children’s Time, you are invited to come forward and place your offering in the boxes provided. 100% of your gifts to the annual Global Missions Offering supports the long-term presence of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries serving 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), Chair, the Christmas Choir, and the Vocal Ensemble will lead us in a celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

✠ Deacon Ordination | January 8, 2022

During the 11:00 AM worship service on January 8, 2022, Josh Brinkley will be ordained. Jamie Burns, Austine Evans, Betty Joyner, and Jim Wiggins have previously been ordained.

✦ 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 10 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

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 as the invoices are streaming in. It is necessary for all outstanding pledges to be paid as soon as possible. Additional funds are always appreciated.

If you are unsure about your pledge, please contact the church office. Your name and number will be recorded, and someone will 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

Monday, December 12

3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

5:15 PM Children's Music & Missions

7:00 PM Christmas Cantata Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

7:00 PM Building & Grounds Committee

Friday, December 16

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