

Hope of Christmas Light

A Cantata for Christmas



The Worship of God ✕ December 18, 2022 ✕ The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 18, 2022 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PASTORAL SENTENCES

Mrs. Penny Rose

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.**

Hope of Christmas Light

A Cantata for Christmas

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Traditional English Carol | Joel Raney, *Arranger*
Jordan Martin & Anita Thompson, Pianists

The offering will be received during the piano duet.

Come, O Come

Cindy Berry, *Composer*
The Children Choristers & the Christmas Choir



Move On Camels

Glenn Ernisse & Susan Ernisse, *Composers*
The Music Friends

Ring, Oh Ring the Bells

Claire Russell, *Composer*
The Music Friends

Jesus is Born

Ruth Elaine Schram, *Composer*
The Music Friends



+Carol 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

John Francis Wade, *Composer* | Anna Laura Page, *Arranger*
Congregation & the Christmas Choir



Mary, Did You Know?

Mark Lowry, *Lyricist*, Buddy Green, *Composer* | Jack Schrader, *Arranger*
The Vocal Ensemble

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Edmund Sears, *Lyricist*, Richard Willis, *Composer* | Marianne Forman, *Arranger*
The Vocal Ensemble

Angels We Have Heard on High

Henry T. Smart, *Composer* | Jeffrey Blersch, *Arranger*
Jordan Martin & Anita Thompson, Pianists



Glory (Let There Be Peace)

Matt Maher, Rachel Taylor Popadic & Christ Stevens, *Composers & Lyricists* | David Wise, *Arranger*
Chairo

Advent Candle Lighting

Love

Ms. Peggy Springfield

Mr. Perry Newbern

Loving God, our journey through Advent is almost at its end, and Christmas Day stands before us. It has been our prayer throughout the season of Advent, that we would open all the dark places in our lives to the healing light of Christ. And so, we pray . . .

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.

Magnify Your love within us.

Prepare our hearts to be transformed by You,

that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

An Advent Song

Rebecca Fair, *Composer & Lyricist* | Joseph M. Martin, *Arranger*

The Children Choristers & the Christmas Choir



Hope of Christmas Light

Patricia Mock, *Composer & Lyricist* | Joshua Metzger, *Arranger*

Music Friends, the Children Choristers & the Christmas Choir

+Carol 102

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

Isaac Watts, *Lyricist*; George F. Handel, *Composer* | Todd Billingsley, *Arranger*

Congregation & the Christmas Choir

+BENEDICTION

Rev. Thompson

+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.

MUSIC & MISSION FRIENDS

Age 3 through Kindergarten

Bryant Brinkley	Layla June Cummings	Bracy Lawrence
Adalyn Britt	Pace Davis	Maddie Morris
Wade Britt	Emma Flythe	Peyton Outlaw
Wyatt Britt	Gracie Griffin	Freeman Perry
Wells Britton	Olivia Jenkins	Libby Pierce
Helen Chamblee	Morgan Johnson	Lucy Pierce
Mac Chamblee		Carson Rose

Heather Alexander & Suzanne Newbern, Leaders

Lyndsay Britt, Sarah Jenkins & Lisa Outlaw, Assistants

Dyllan Troiano, Kayla Troiano, Eli Willis & Lilli Willis, Youth Assistants

THE CHILDREN CHORISTERS

Grades 1 through 5

Faith Adams	Sophia Byrd	Sarah Newbern
Charlotte Adams	Lilly Flythe	Bennett Pierce
Abby Alexander	Mary Welch Gallop	Dempsey Pierce
Madison Alexander	Winslow Gallop	Henry Pierce
Jackson Alexander	Leslie Jernigan	Stuart Pierce
Caroline Baker	Grant Johnson	Briar Rascoe
Jackson Baker	Graham Lawrence	Charlie Rascoe
Corbett Britton		Gates Vaughan
Carter Cummings		Milly Vaughan

Anita Thompson, Leader

Jayne Frei & Vicky Overman, Assistants

Perry Newbern, Youth Assistant

GUEST INSTRUMENTALIST

Patrick Rose, *Trumpet & Percussion*

THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR

<i>Soprano</i>	<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Bass</i>	<i>Alto</i>
Rita Myers Bula	Jordan Martin*	Thomas Jernigan	Linda Alexander*
Jamie Burns	Jim Wiggins*	Scott Outlaw*	Carol Jean Fretwell
Jenni Byrd		Brandon Zoch*	Ashlee' Perry*
Harriet Byrum*			Judy G. Pierce*
Claudia Morris			Bonnie Revelle
Vicky Overman*			Cheryl Slachta
Melissa Pasek			
Claire Presley*			
Dana Wiggins			

* = Vocal Ensemble Members

CHAIRO

<i>Soprano 1</i>	<i>Soprano 2</i>	<i>Alto</i>
Jamie Burns	Leah Newsome	Linda Alexander
Jenni Byrd	Ashlee' Perry	
Sophia Byrd		
Lou Ann Gilliam		
Betty Joyner		
Claudia Morris		
Vicky Overman		
Melissa Pasek		

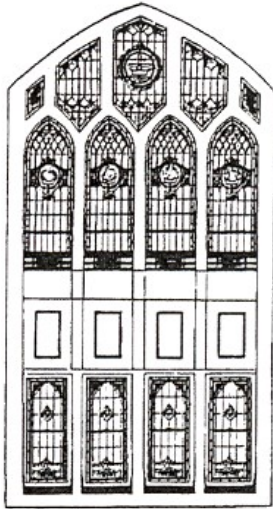
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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 18, 2022

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✠ Worship Notes

The Season of Advent – Today we observe the fourth Sunday of Advent, and light the candle of love to burn brightly alongside the candles of peace, hope and joy.

“You could more easily catch a hurricane in a shrimp net than you can understand the wild, relentless, passionate, uncompromising, pursuing love of God made present in the manger.”
– Brennan Manning

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

Ages 1 & 2: Mary Page Pierce & Nancy Perry

Ages 3 & 4: Claire & Jordan Harrell

Kindergarten: Lily Ann Brinkley & Anna Dawson

✠ 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 o, the Christmas Choir, and the Vocal Ensemble will lead us in a celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

5✠ Christmas Eve Worship Service | 5:00 PM

We will gather for our traditional candlelight worship service as we celebrate the night of Jesus' birth.

✠ Sunday School | December 25, 2022 & January 1, 2023

Sunday School classes will not meet on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

✠ End of Year Giving

Anyone wishing to turn in offerings to be included in the 2022 tax year may do so on Sunday, December 25, 2022, or mail your contribution to FBCA, PO Box 649, Ahoskie, NC 27910. 2022 gifts must be in hand or postmarked by December 31, 2022.

✠ Deacon Ordination | January 8, 2022

During the 11:00 AM worship service on January 8, 2022, Josh Brinkley will be 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.

We are thankful for those who've volunteered to provide food. As of December 13, 2022, we are still in need of a roaster pan of dressing and 6 more 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 are 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.

✠ Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Our Ingathering on December 11 resulted in a collection of \$6244 for our Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions Offering. Well done! We will continue to receive this offering through March. 100% of your gifts to the annual Global Missions Offering supports the long-term presence of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries serving around the world.