



The Worship of God ✦ December 24, 2022 ✦ Christmas Eve

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 24, 2022 ✠ 5:00 PM
✠ *The Season of the Church Year: Christmas Eve*

Surprising God, open our ears to hear this familiar story as if for the first time. Open our eyes to see the diverse cast gathered at the manger. Open our hearts to the power of Your love as revealed in this amazing story. Open our lives to the possibility of transformation, as we encounter once again God-With-Us, Emmanuel.

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent
with *Silent Night*
Jordan Martin, Pianist

arr. Mark Hayes

LITANY

Rev. Anita Thompson

. . . So, let us lift up our hearts in thanksgiving, for a child, *the Child*,
has been born!
O come, let us adore Him—
The Child whose coming was announced by the prophets.
O come, let us adore Him—
The Child whose message was proclaimed by the angels.
O come, let us adore Him—
The Child whose glory was hailed by the shepherds.
O come, let us adore Him—
Yes! Let us *all* adore Him, for the Child is, indeed, Christ Jesus, our Lord.

+CAROL 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

✠ ✠ ✠

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:12, 16

Dr. Gilliam

HOMILY

A Baby's Eyes

Dr. Gilliam

SOLO

Kissing the Face of God
Sophia Byrd, Soloist

Words: Jeanne Benthall
Music: Daniel Glaze

✠ ✠ ✠

The Christmas Story

from the Gospel of Luke

THE FIRST LESSON

Luke 2:1-7
The Journey to Bethlehem

Miss Avery Byrum

CAROL 107

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

✂ ✂ ✂

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:8-16
The Angels' Announcement to the Shepherds

Mr. Eli Willis

PIANO DUET

Angels We Have Heard on High
Jordan Martin & Anita Thompson, Pianists

arr. Jeffrey Blersch

✂ ✂ ✂

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:17-20
The Shepherd's Departure

Mr. Perry Newbern

CAROL 143

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (*Refrain*)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the Earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (*Refrain*)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us all salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (*Refrain*)

✂ ✂ ✂

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
A Child Has Been Born for Us

Miss Lilli Willis

DUET

Lo, How a Rose/The Rose
Jordan Martin & Anita Thompson, Vocalists

arr. Craig H. Johnson



THE FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-5, 14
The Word Made Flesh

Rev. Thompson

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Rev. Thompson

+CAROL 134

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

During the singing of the carol, you will be invited to receive the light from the Christ Candle and share it with those around you.

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight.
Glory streams from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love’s pure light
radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.



+BENEDICTION

Dr. Gilliam

+RESPONSE

Carol 124

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOEL

The first noel the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
who hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with His blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel.

PIANO POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
Jordan Martin & Anita Thompson, Pianists

arr. Joel Raney

Please be seated for the Postlude.

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

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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