



The Worship of God ✦ December 25, 2022 ✦ Christmas Day

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 25, 2022 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: Christmas Day*

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

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

Mrs. Jessica Brinkley

On this Christmas Day . . .
O, that our tongues were like bells to ring out the joy,
and our hands like drums to beat a holy rhythm.

O, that our voices sounded like the heavenly choir,
and our feet were lively enough to dance our praise.

O, that our knees were strong enough to kneel forever in wonder,
and our hearts could forever ponder the joy, and share the love.

INTROIT

Ring the Bells
Vicky Overman, Soloist

Harry Bollback

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mrs. Brinkley

+HYMN OF PRAISE 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.

✠ ✠ ✠

+HYMN 122

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before Him bow, and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Miss Lily Ann Brinkley

As we worship God with our offerings, this is our prayer:
May these gifts bring a sense of wonder to those whose vision is limited;
may they bring peace to those who are in conflict;
may they bring friendship to those who are alone;
may they bring love to those who feel rejected.
**Bless these gifts, O God, which we give in thanksgiving
for the gift of the Christ Child. Amen.**

PIANO OFFERTORY

+ADVENT DOXOLOGY

GREENSLEEVES

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.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe the Son of Mary.
Amen.



NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 2:8

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, page 71 of New Testament

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

SERMON

Your Corner

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 PRAISE 102

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH

+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.

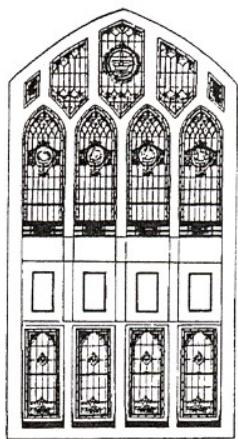
+Those who are able are invited to stand.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III
Pastor
Mrs. Leah Newsome
Pianist

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 25, 2022

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✦ Worship Notes

The Season of Christmas – Today we begin our journey through the Season of Christmas when, for twelve days we celebrate the anniversary of the birth of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. "The story of Christmas is the story of God's relentless love for us." - Max Lucado. On day thirteen, we usher in the season of Epiphany.

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

Ages 1 & 2: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene

Ages 3 & 4: Michelle Boyd & Sarah Jenkins

Kindergarten: Kimmi & Nathan Pierce

✦ Sunday School | January 1, 2023

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

✦ 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.

✦ End of Year Giving

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

✦ Church Office Hours | December 26 - 30, 2022

Dr. Gilliam and Rev. Thompson will be in the church office periodically the week between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. We recommend you call before coming by the offices.

✦ Deacon Ordination | January 8, 2023

During the 11:00 AM worship service on January 8, 2023, we will ordain Josh Brinkley.

✦ Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Thus far we have received \$6892.18 for our annual Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions Offering. Thank you for your gifts. We will continue to receive this offering through March. 100% of your gifts to the Global Missions Offering support the long-term presence of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries serving around the world.

✠ 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.

✠ Music Ministry Participation Opportunities in 2023

For Children | Resumes January 11, 2023

Two age groups, Age 3 through Kindergarten, and Grades 1 through 5, meet each Wednesday from 5:15 to 6:15 PM, September through May. All children in the Roanoke-Chowan area are invited to join us.

For Youth & Adults

The Sanctuary Choir | Resumes January 11, 2023

This is our primary worship leadership choir which sings a variety of music styles. Adults and high school students meet on Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 PM.

Chairo | Resumes January 11, 2023

*Chairo is an intergenerational music ensemble for students in Grades 4 through 12, and adults of all ages. Chairo sings Praise & Worship music and multi-cultural world music. We meet on Sundays from 2:00 to 3:00 PM. The word Chairo comes from the Greek word *χαίρω* meaning “to rejoice.”*