



Epiphany Sunday

The Worship of God ✦ January 8, 2023 ✦ Epiphany Sunday

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

312 West Main Street ♦ 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

January 8, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: Epiphany Sunday*
Deacon Ordination

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.**

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Miss Lily Ann Brinkley & Mr. Bryant Brinkley, Acolytes

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2 and 60:1

In Pew Bible, page 780 & 844 of Old Testament

Mrs. Jamie Burns,
Deacon Vice Chair

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mrs. Burns

+HYMN OF PRAISE 129

Jesus, the Light of the World

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

✠ ✠ ✠

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Rev. Anita Thompson

People of God, what is our 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.

✠ ✠ ✠

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mrs. Jessica Brinkley

OFFERTORY

+OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Lord, the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining;
 Jesus, Light of the world shine upon us, set us free by the truth You now bring us;
 Shine on me, shine on me.
 Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
 Blaze, spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
 Flow river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
 Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

✠ ✠ ✠

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Corinthians 11:1

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, page 210 of New Testament

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

SERMON

The Good Deacon

Dr. Gilliam

At the conclusion of the sermon, we may observe a time of silence to reflect on all that has been experienced while we've worshiped together.

✠ ✠ ✠

ORDINATION OF DEACON

Josh Brinkley

Statement of Purpose

Mr. Scott Outlaw,
Deacon Chair

Through the gifts of the Spirit, God calls men and women within Christ's church to serve as deacons in ministry. All ministry derives from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who embodies God's ministry to all the world.

A diaconate has been established through which those designated as deacons serve together in shared responsibility of church leadership. Together they represent, to the people of God, servant ministry within a congregation. Together, they are those who:

- assist generally in worship and particularly in the ministration of baptism and the Lord's Supper;
- assist in pastoral care, looking after the needs of the sick and those in distress;
- take shared responsibility for the spiritual life of the congregation and its expressions of the Gospel;
- fulfill designated administrative responsibility in the ordered life and mission of the church.

Charge to Candidate

Mr. Outlaw

Josh, the church has prayerfully considered your gifts of ministry for service in its diaconate, and has duly called you to be a deacon. You have accepted this call as God's intention for your life. In the light of your calling to this responsibility,

- do you reaffirm your faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God;
- do you seek the peace, unity, and purity of the church;

•and do you, in accepting the office of deacon in this congregation, promise faithfully to perform all the duties pertaining to your calling?

If your answer is “yes,” say “I do.”

Charge to Church

Rev. Thompson

Do you, members of First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, receive Josh as deacon within the shared ministry of Christ’s mission, and do you covenant to encourage and support him in the fulfillment of his responsibilities?

If your answer is “yes,” join me in reciting our affirmation together.

**Reaffirming our faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God,
we gladly receive Josh as a servant leader in our life together.
We covenant to support him with our prayers, encouragement, and respect.
We celebrate with thanksgiving the shared responsibilities
for Christ’s ministry which is ours as the church. Praise be to God.**

Laying on of Hands

Prayer of Dedication

Dr. Gilliam

✠ ✠ ✠

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 493 *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

ADELAIDE

+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.

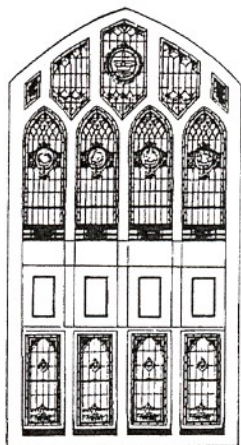
RECESSIONAL OF THE LIGHT

POSTLUDE

Please be seated for the postlude.

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

Today’s altar flowers are given by Carroll Thompson and Anita Thompson, to the glory of God, and in loving memory of Ella Gray White Thompson who was born on January 13, 1937.



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

January 8, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✦ Worship Notes

♦ **Epiphany Sunday** - Following the 12th day of Christmas, the church ushers in the Season of Epiphany. The official beginning of Epiphany is January 6, but since this date may fall on any day of the week, we celebrate Epiphany Sunday on the Sunday closest to that date.

“As with most aspects of the Christian Year, Epiphany has theological significance. The term epiphany means ‘to show’ or ‘to make known’ or even ‘to reveal.’ The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the child Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as ‘King’ and so were the first to ‘show’ or ‘reveal’ Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon’s blessing that this child Jesus would be ‘a light for revelation to the Gentiles’ (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few.” – Dennis Bratcher

♦ **Childcare During Worship** - We give thanks for those caring for our young ones today 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 Ordination | Today

Today we ordain Josh Brinkley to our diaconate. Joining him in deacon ministry for a three-year term, are Jamie Burns, Austine Evans, Betty Joyner, and Jim Wiggins, which began on January 1, 2023.

✦ Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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.

✦ Offering Envelopes

If you are not receiving offering envelopes and would like to, please contact the church office.

✦ 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 15, 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.”

✂ This Week’s Calendar

Today, January 8, 2022

9:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

No afternoon or evening activities.

Monday, January 9

3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 11

5:15 PM Children’s Music & Missions: Age 3 – Grade 5

6:15 PM Youth Group Gathering: Grades 6-12

7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

Thursday, January 12

7:00 PM Building & Grounds Committee

Friday, January 13

8:30 AM Christian Women’s Job Corps @ The Gathering Place

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