



"Whoever follows me
will **never** walk in
darkness,
but will have the
light of life."
J O H N 8 : 1 2

The Worship of God ✠ January 15, 2023 ✠ The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

312 West Main Street ♦ 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

January 15, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

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.**

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES & OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Mrs. Suzanne Newbern & Perry, Acolytes

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 8:12

Miss Sarah Newbern

In Pew Bible, page 123 of New Testament

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

INTROIT

The Light of the World is Jesus
The Sanctuary Choir

Philip P. Bliss

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin, the Light of the world is Jesus!
Like sunshine at noonday, His glory shone in; the Light of the world is Jesus!

Refrain: Come to the light, 'tis shining for thee; sweetly the light has dawned upon me.
Once I was blind, but now I can see: the Light of the world is Jesus!

No darkness have we who in Jesus abide; the Light of the world is Jesus!
We walk in the Light when we follow our Guide! The Light of the world is Jesus!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Miss Newbern

+HYMN OF PRAISE 7

Worthy of Worship

JUDSON



CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Mark 3:13-17

Rev. 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.**



+HYMN 156

Shine, Jesus, Shine
Stanza 1 & Refrain

SHINE

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mrs. Newbern

OFFERTORY

+OFFERING RESPONSE

Hymn 156

Shine, Jesus, Shine
Refrain Only

SHINE

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.



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalms 40:1-13

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, pages 631 & 632 of Old Testament

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

SERMON

This Little Light of Mine

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.*



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.

+SONG OF RESPONSE *This Little Light of Mine*

SPIRITUAL

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)
Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine!
2. Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)
Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine!
3. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)
Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine!

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Gilliam

+CHIMES OF THE TRINITY & RECESSIONAL OF THE LIGHT

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.

POSTLUDE

Please be seated for the postlude.

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

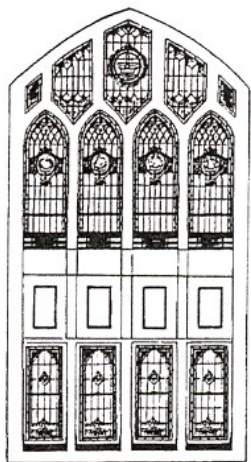
Today's altar flowers are given by Vicky Overman to the glory of God.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

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

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

January 15, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✦ Worship Notes

♦ **The Season of Epiphany** - *Following the 12th day of Christmas, the church ushers in the Season of Epiphany. "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: Kari Pierce & Cheryl Slachta

Ages 3 & 4: Claire & Jordan Harrell

Kindergarten: Avery & Harriet Byrum

✦ Chairo Music Ensemble Resumes Rehearsals Today | 2:00 PM

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."

✦ Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

We will continue to receive this offering through March. Our goal is \$8,000. Thus far we have received \$7,518.18. One hundred percent 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.

✦ Capital Campaign Update

Church Interiors tradesmen are planning to return this week to complete the final punch list for our renovations in the Fellowship Hall and kitchen. Hopefully, in a week or so the construction segment of the work will be done. Then, we will need to clean, hang photos, move furniture, assemble worktables and shelving, receive training regarding the operation of the new, fast-cleaning dishwasher, receive training on the operation of our new TVs, and restock the kitchen. We will need lots of volunteer help!

Also, we plan to get an estimate for the repair and painting of the unsightly area under the front steps and perhaps get that completed while the workers are here. Your collective giving has enabled us to preserve and improve spaces in this impressive structure that was built and passed down to us and future generations as we worship God and carry out his mission in our lives and our community. Thanks be to God!

✦ This Week's Calendar

Monday, January 16

3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting

Tuesday, January 17

6:00 PM Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday, January 18

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

Friday, January 20

8:30 AM Christian Women's Job Corps, *The Gathering Place*

Saturday, January 21

5:00 PM West Point Chapel Choir Concert, *FBCA Sanctuary*
A churchwide dinner will follow.

Sunday, January 22

9:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

2:00 PM Chairo Music Ensemble Rehearsal, *Choir Room*

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