



The Worship of God ✦ February 12, 2023 ✦ The 6th Sunday after Epiphany

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

February 12, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The Sixth 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 AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Mr. Henry, Mr. Bennett, and Miss Lucy Pierce, Acolytes

ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM

Dr. Gilliam

Dempsey Walters Pierce & Lila Stuart Pierce

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Thompson

+HYMN OF PRAISE 449

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

✠ ✠ ✠

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

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.

✠ ✠ ✠

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS

Dr. Bonnie Revelle

Psalm 78:1-6a, 12, 15-16, 24
In Pew Bible, pages 661 & 662 of Old Testament

Psalm 81:13-16
In Pew Bible, page 666 of Old Testament

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

ANTHEM

Honey in the Rock
Chairo

B. Ligertwood, B. Lake,
and M. Wong

There's honey in the rock, water in the stone,
Manna on the ground, no matter where I go.
I don't need to worry now that I know,
Everything I need You've got, there's honey in the rock.

+PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Dr. Revelle

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.

✠ ✠ ✠

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 6:1-12

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, pages 189 & 190 of New Testament

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

SERMON

The Church Beautiful

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.

+HYMN OF RESPONSE 570 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

TRUST IN JESUS

+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 Trey & Harriet Byrum to the glory of God and in celebration of Avery's sixteenth birthday on February 17.

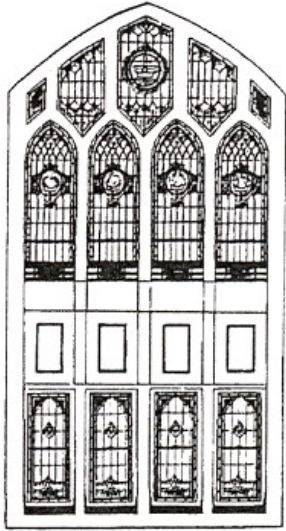
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III
Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Leah Newsome
Music Associate/Pianist



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

February 12, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✠ Worship Notes

♦ **The Christian Year** – *the church marks time differently than the secular world. We follow the Christian Year which begins with the Season of Advent four weeks prior to Christmas and ends with Christ the King Sunday on the Sunday prior to the beginning of Advent.*

We're currently observing the Season of Epiphany which ends next Sunday, February 19 as we celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord (Matthew 17:1-9).

♦ **Baptist Ordinances** - *Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the sole ordinances Baptists historically observe. Last Sunday we celebrated the Lord's Supper; today we celebrate baptism. We give God thanks for the professions of faith of siblings Dempsey and Stuart Pierce and rejoice over their baptism.*

♦ **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, Leah & Ben Woodard

Kindergarten: Melanie Byrum & Winnie Matthews

✠ Ash Wednesday Meal & Worship

February 22, 2023 | Meal at 6 PM | Worship at 7 PM

On Ash Wednesday we usher in the Season of Lent with a traditional worship service of repentance and the imposition of ashes. The menu for the evening is grilled barbeque chicken with homemade sauce, secret recipe creamed potatoes, seasoned green beans, cornbread squares, peach or blackberry cobbler with cream. To make a reservation for your family, call the church office or write your name on the sign-up sheet in the second-floor hallway by noon on February 20. Meal donations of \$8.00 are appreciated but not required.

✠ Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

We will continue to receive this offering through March. Our goal is \$8,000 and our current total is \$7,618.18. 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.

✠ Pastor's Lenten Bible Study | March 1, 2023 | 6:00 PM

On Wednesday, March 1, 2023, Dr. Gilliam will resume Adult Bible Study. Please join him in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM.

✂ Heck-Jones Offering

During the month of February, FBC Ahoskie will collect the Heck-Jones Offering. This annual offering provides primary funding for the mission and ministries of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of NC. The offering is named for Fannie Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones, two dedicated women in WMU history. Both held prominent leadership roles in the North Carolina organization, and Miss Heck also served at the national level. Envelopes for this offering, are in the pew racks. Your generosity helps to provide for the future and ministry of WMU NC.

✂ Newsletter Article Submissions

Our weekly newsletter is released on Wednesdays. If there is information you would like published in our newsletter, please call, or email the church office by noon on Monday.

✂ This Week's Calendar

Monday, February 13

3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting

Wednesday, February 15

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, February 17

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

Sunday, February 19

9:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

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