



FIRST SUNDAY
in
LENT

The Worship of God ✦ February 26, 2023 ✦ The First Sunday in Lent

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 26, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠*The Season of the Church Year: The First Sunday in Lent*

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

Miss Jenni Byrd & Miss Sophia Byrd, Acolytes

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mrs. Elizabeth Craft

+HYMN OF PRAISE 295 *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

✠ ✠ ✠

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Rev. 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.**

✠ ✠ ✠

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 4:1-11

Mr. Andy Woodard

In Pew Bible, pages 3 & 4 of New Testament

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Thompson

Prayer Response: . . . and so we pray, **forgive us, Lord.**

+ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hymn 576

I Stand Amazed in the Presence

MY SAVIOR'S LOVE

Stanza 1

✠ ✠ ✠

+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Dr. Claudia Morris

God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude,
rejoicing in the abundance of Your gifts to us.

We give these offerings in faith,
trusting that You will provide for our needs.

We give these offerings in hope,
knowing You can use them to spread Your love in this world.

And with these offerings, we give ourselves;
May we live with generous hearts and open hands. Amen

CHORAL OFFERTORY *I'll Sing the Praise of Jesus* The Vocal Ensemble

Craig Courtney

I'll sing the praise of Jesus who bore the cross for me.
His wondrous love so precious, my constant theme shall be.

*Refrain: I'll sing the praise of Jesus till heart and voice shall fail,
and then forever praise Him, when safe within the veil.*

I'll sing His praise at morning and in the noonday bright.
I'll sing His praise at evening, and in the hush of night. *(Refrain)*

I'll sing the praise of Jesus of whom my hope depends.
My everlasting portion, my best and dearest friend. *(Refrain)*

+LENTEN DOXOLOGY – Hymn 377

GREEN

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Blessed Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done. Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 In Pew Bible, pages 2 & 3 of Old Testament

Dr. Gilliam

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

SERMON

They Knew and We Know

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 626 *Nothing But the Blood*

PLAINFIELD

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Gilliam

+LENTEN RESPONSE

arr. Mark Edwards

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

+CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

Please be seated for the postlude.

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

Today's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in the loving memory of Rev. Billy P. Presley, Sr. by Claire, Deanna, Billy, Jr., and their families.

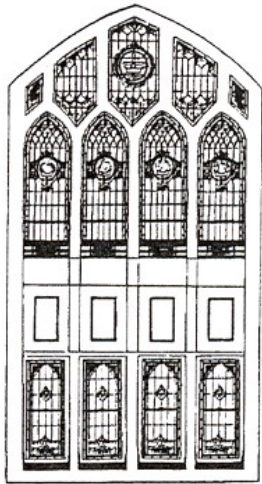
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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 26, 2022

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.*

Last Wednesday we ushered in the Season of Lent by worshipping together in observance of Ash Wednesday. The Lenten Season spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and concluding the Saturday before Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead Him to abandon His mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance. – Dennis Bratcher, adapted by ADT.

✠ Childcare During Worship

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

Ages 1 & 2: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene

Ages 3 & 4: Michelle Boyd & Sarah Jenkins

Kindergarten: Kimmi & Nathan Pierce

✠ Pastor's Lenten Homily & Communion | March 1, 2023 | 6:00 PM

On Wednesday, March 1, 2023, Dr. Gilliam will begin a weekly Lenten opportunity in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a homily (short sermon) and communion.

✠ Financial Secretary

On Monday, February 20, 2023, we welcomed Sharon Hill as Financial Secretary. A native of Bertie County, Sharon comes to us with many years of administrative experience in local schools. Our interim Financial Assistants, Linda Alexander and Debbie Greene are introducing her to our procedures. Once Sharon settles in, we will publish her schedule. We ask for your continued patience during this transition.

✠ 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 \$7,818.18. 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.

✦ 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

Sunday, February 26 | *The First Sunday in Lent*

9:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

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

Monday, February 27

3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting

Wednesday, March 1

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

6:00 PM Pastor's Lenten Homily & Communion

6:15 PM Youth Gathering, *FBCA Annex*

7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

Friday, March 3

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

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