



FOURTH SUNDAY  
*in*  
LENT

The Worship of God ✦ March 19, 2023 ✦ The Fourth 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

March 19, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

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 & OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Mr. William Alexander & Miss Abby Alexander, Acolytes

✠ ✠ ✠

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 23

Mrs. Penny Rose

In Pew Bible, page 617 of Old Testament

This is the word of God for the people of God;

**thanks be to God.**

+HYMN OF PRAISE 405 *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

BRADBURY

✠ ✠ ✠

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.**

✠ ✠ ✠

CHORAL PRAYER

*Wounded Alleluias*

Craig Courtney

The Vocal Ensemble

*Lord, heal our wounded alleluias. Touch our fragile, simple praise.*

*Comfort every troubled, wayward song with Your gentle grace.*

*Alleluia.*

*In the stillness of our inmost thoughts, each broken song redeem.  
Move Your bow across our silent strings, that we might learn Your theme.  
Alleluia.*

*Write in us Your hymn of hope and wonder, craft each needed chord with care.  
Fix in us Your wondrous harmony, a symphony to share.*

*Help us trust Your holy, grand design, Composer of the heart.  
Make us now Your instruments of peace and let the music start.  
Alleluia.*

- Joseph M. Martin

## +HYMN OF ASSURANCE

Hymn 576

*I Stand Amazed in the Presence*  
Stanza 1

MY SAVIOR'S LOVE

✠ ✠ ✠

## +PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Mrs. Austine Evans

## OFFERTORY

## +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.

✠ ✠ ✠

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 5:8-17

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, pages 237 & 238 of New Testament

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

## SERMON

*How Do You Know?*

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 680

*I Then Shall Live*

FINLANDIA

## +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 by Scott & Lisa Outlaw to the glory of God and in honor of our parents, children, and grandchildren.*

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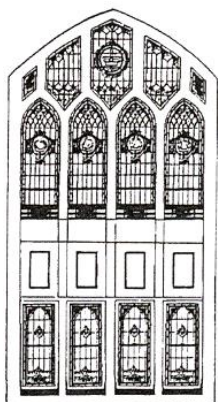
### OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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

March 19, 2022

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

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## ✠ 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 are currently into the fourth week of the Season of Lent which 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.*

## ◆ Holy Week 2023

**Palm Sunday, April 2 | 11:00 AM Worship Service**

*We remember the beginning of Christ's last week before His crucifixion. We will offer our praise to the Christ, who rode to Jerusalem on the back of a donkey while followers waved branches and shouted, "Hosanna, Hosanna!"*

**Maundy Thursday, April 6 | 6:00 PM Meal & 6:45 PM Worship Service**

*We remember the night Jesus met in the upper room with His disciples, the night Christ instituted the Lord's Supper.*

**Good Friday, April 7 | 7:00 PM Worship Service**

*We remember Jesus' betrayal, arrest and crucifixion for crimes He did not commit. The Adult Choir of Edenton Baptist Church will join with our Sanctuary Choir to present Mary McDonald's Holy Week cantata, "It Is Finished."*

**Easter Sunday, April 9 | 11:00 AM Worship Service**

*We celebrate the risen Savior!*

## ✠ 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*

## ✠ Lenten Homily & Communion | March 22, 2023 | 6:15 PM

Throughout the Season of Lent, Dr. Gilliam will lead a weekly Lenten worship opportunity in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a homily (short sermon) and communion.

## ✠ Easter Egg Hunt | April 8, 2023 | 10:00 AM

At the home of Stuart & Sandra Pierce, 107 DT Rd., Ahoskie. Children up to grade 5 and their families are invited to join us. Please bring Easter baskets to gather eggs.

## ✠ This Week's Calendar

### Sunday, March 19 | *The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

9:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

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

### Monday, March 20

3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting

### Tuesday, March 21

9:30 AM SeniorFEST at Chowan University

6:00 PM Deacons' Meeting

### Wednesday, March 22

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

6:15 PM Lenten Homily & Communion, *Fellowship Hall*

6:15 PM Youth Gathering, *FBCA Annex*

7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

### Thursday, March 23 & Friday, March 24

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC Annual Gathering, *Winston Salem*

### Friday, March 24

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