



The Worship of God ✦ April 2, 2023 ✦ Palm 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

April 2, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: Palm Sunday*

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

Miss Sophia Byrd, Acolyte

PALM SUNDAY LITANY

Mr. Andy Woodard

Today we prepare for the holiest of weeks.  
**With Christ, we will journey through praise, with Hosannas on our lips.**  
**With Christ, we will travel through betrayal and death,**  
**cradling hope deep in our hearts.**

Today we wave palm branches in anticipation,  
and we join our voices with Christians around the world, shouting,  
**Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

INTROIT & PROCESSIONAL

The Children Choristers & Sanctuary Choir  
*"Hear the Children Sing, 'Hosanna!'"*

Ruth Elaine Schram

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mr. Woodard

+HYMN OF PRAISE 175

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

ST. THEODULPH

✠ ✠ ✠

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Music from the Music Friends (Age 3 – Kindergarten)

*Wave Your Palms High*

*Easter is a Special Day*

Rev. Thompson

IsaBeall Hudson

Nan Grantham

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING

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.**

✂ ✂ ✂

Rev. Thompson

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 118:1, 19-26

In Pew Bible, pages 694 & 695 of Old Testament

Mrs. Claire Presley

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

## +HYMN 172

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

Stanza 3

ELLACOMBE

✂ ✂ ✂

## +LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Miss Madison Alexander

As we reflect on Jesus' triumphant ride  
from the Mount of Olives into the city of Jerusalem,  
we proclaim with both tongue and tithe,

**"Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord."**

Receive, we pray, O God, the offerings of our hearts, monies, and lives,  
**that Your name may be hallowed, Your Gospel proclaimed,  
that Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.**

This we pray through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## OFFERTORY

## +LENTEN DOXOLOGY – Hymn 377

GREEN

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;

Precious 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 Matthew 21:1-11

In Pew Bible, pages 27 & 28 of New Testament

Dr. Gilliam

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

## SERMON

*What Else?*

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 497 *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

ASSAM

+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

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 to the glory of God by the Worship Decorating Committee and Don & LuAnn Joyner and their children, Win & Elizabeth in loving memory of Harry W. "Pete" & Lucille W. Whitley, Harry W. Whitley Jr. & Wingate G., and Helen M. Joyner.*

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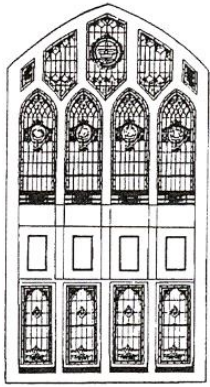
## OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson  
Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III  
Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom  
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Leah Newsome  
Pianist



# A Window on the Weeks Ahead

April 2, 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.*

Today we enter the final week of the Lenten Season known as Holy Week. Specifics about the week's observances are listed below. Except for Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, there are no activities on Wednesday; we do this to free up the week in the hope that you will reserve Thursday and Friday evenings for Holy Week worship. All worshipers are encouraged to participate in every worship service, choosing to follow Jesus every step of the way.

## ♦ 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. Both the meal and the worship service will take place in the fellowship hall. To make a reservation, call the church office by noon on Tuesday, April 4. Meal donations of \$5.00 are appreciated but not required.*

### ✠ 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: Nancy Baker & Judy H. Pierce*

*Ages 3 & 4: Brian & Victoria Outlaw*

*Kindergarten: Landis & Will Chamblee*

### ✠ Wednesday Activities | April 5, 2023

*For the Wednesday of Holy Week, the only activity planned for the day is Sanctuary Choir rehearsal.*

### ✠ Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship | April 6, 2023 | Fellowship Hall

**6 PM Meal | 6:45 PM Worship Service**

*Please join us on Maundy Thursday for a meal and worship. The menu includes grilled ham and cheese sandwiches, assorted fruit, chips, cookies, and bottled water. To make a reservation for your family, call the church office by noon on Tuesday, April 4. Meal donations of \$5.00 are appreciated but not required.*

### ✠ 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.*

### ✠ WMU Churchwide Mission Project | Easterseals UCP

*Easterseals UCP, Ahoskie serves people with intellectual disabilities in Hertford and surrounding counties. Programs provided include adult respite, children's afterschool care, and Summer Day Camps. Items will be collected through April 30, 2023. They are in need of the following items:*

- Individual Juices      • Ziplock Bags (Gallon & Quart sizes)
- Large Trash Bags      • Snack Packs of Chips (Assorted)
- Mini Bottled Water   • Snack Packs of Cookies (Assorted)

### ✠ Happy Staff Anniversary!

*Selton Vaughan celebrates his 5<sup>th</sup> staff anniversary at First Baptist Church of Ahoskie on April 3, 2023.*