



The Worship of God ✠ April 16, 2023 ✠ The 2nd Sunday of Easter

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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THE WORSHIP OF GOD

April 16, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

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 AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Mr. Alex Britton & Mr. Corbett Britton, Acolytes

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mrs. Sarah Grace Britton

+HYMN OF PRAISE

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

REGENT SQUARE

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heav'nly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to vict'ry now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
Even when life overwhelms us, Easter people sing this song:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Everlasting Sunday song.

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Rev. Anita 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.

✠ ✠ ✠

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 28:16-20

Mrs. Linda Bazemore

In Pew Bible, page 41 of New Testament

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Thompson

SOLO

I Believe in a Hill Called Mount Calvary
Vicky Overman, Soloist

Gaither, Gaither & Oldham

✠ ✠ ✠

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mrs. Bazemore

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Christ is risen! Alleluia! Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Colossians 3:1-10

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, page 246 of New Testament

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

SERMON

When the Lights Dim

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 71

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

+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.

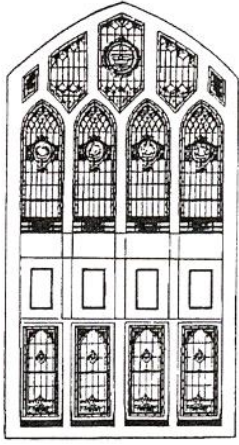
Today's worship flowers are given to the glory of God by Bill and Debbie Magette and family, in loving memory of LuAnn Joyner.

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

April 16, 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.*

Today we continue our journey through the Easter Season which concludes with Ascension Sunday on May 21, 2023. The following Sunday we celebrate the Day of Pentecost, also called the Birthday of the Church.

✠ Childcare During Worship

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

Ages 1 & 2: Nancy Perry & Mary Page Pierce

Ages 3 & 4: Claire & Jordan Harrell

Kindergarten: Lily Ann Brinkley & Anna Dawson

✠ 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)

✠ 250th Anniversary of *Amazing Grace* Concert

The year 2023 marks the 250th anniversary of the hymn, "Amazing Grace." For two and a half centuries John Newton's moving lyrics have stirred our hearts and given us a means to give thanks and praise to God for the grace we know through our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

On Sunday, May 21 at 3:00 PM, our Music Ministry will present a concert in celebration of this anniversary. More details are forthcoming.

✠ Prayer Prompt for The Gathering Place Ministries

Please pray for the Food Pantry ministry which helps feed the hungry in the Ahoskie area. Specifically, pray for the hungry, for the Food Pantry Board as they oversee this ministry, for more volunteers to help with disbursing the Commodity Food Boxes for Seniors on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

✠ In Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family of FBCA member, Lou Ann Joyner, who died on April 7, 2023. A memorial service was held at FBCA on Friday, April 14th. Let us hold in prayer LuAnn's husband, Don, and their children, Win and Elizabeth.

✠ Happy Staff Anniversary

Rev. Anita Thompson celebrates her 21st staff anniversary at First Baptist Church of Ahoskie on April 15, 2023. Leah Newsome, pianist, celebrates her 1st anniversary on April 24.

✠ This Week's Calendar

Sunday, April 16 | *The 2nd Sunday of Easter*

9:30 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
2:00 PM Chairo Rehearsal

Monday, April 17

3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting

Tuesday, April 18

6:00 PM Deacons' Meeting

Wednesday, April 19

5:15 PM Children's Music & Missions: Age 3 – Grade 5
6:15 PM Youth Group Gathering (Grades 6-12) | *FBC Annex*
7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

Friday, April 21

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

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