

The Worship of God ✦ April 23, 2023 ✦ The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

## 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 23, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PASTORAL SENTENCES

Rev. Dr. Dennis Bazemore

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

Mrs. Elizabeth Davis & Mr. Pace Davis, Acolytes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Thompson

INTROIT

*Standing on the Promises*  
The Sanctuary Choir

arr. Mark Edwards

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King,  
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail.  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God.

## INVOCATION

Mrs. Davis

+HYMN OF PRAISE 48    *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

✠ ✠ ✠

## 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 LESSON    Lamentations 3:22-23

Mrs. Penny Rose

In Pew Bible, page 937 of Old Testament

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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Thompson

+HYMN OF PRAISE 600    *O How He Loves You and Me*  
Sung Twice

PATRICIA

✠ ✠ ✠

## +OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mrs. Rose

## OFFERTORY

## +DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

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

✠ ✠ ✠

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON    Ephesians 3:14-19

Dr. Bazemore

In Pew Bible, page 236 of New Testament

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

## SERMON

## *The Dimensions of Christ's Love*

Dr. Bazemore

*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 576 *I Stand Amazed in the Presence* MY SAVIOR'S LOVE

## +BENEDICTION

Dr. Bazemore

## +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 to the glory of God and in loving memory of Hal and Ann Daniels by Kim and Ed Cherry, Henry and Pat Daniels, and their families.*

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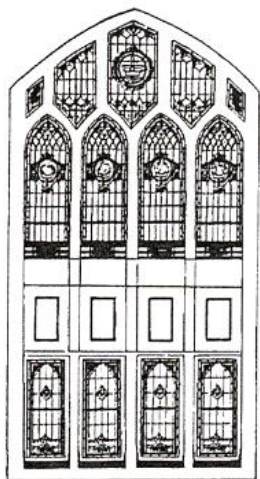
## OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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

April 23, 2023

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 celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter as we continue our journey through Eastertide which concludes with Ascension Sunday on May 21, 2023. The following Sunday, May 28, 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: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene*

*Ages 3 & 4: Michelle Boyd & Sarah Jenkins*

*Kindergarten: Kimmi & Nathan Pierce*

## ✦ 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)

## ✦ Prayer Prompt for The Gathering Place Ministries

*The Gathering Place offers a worship service or program, along with a free meal on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The event begins at 5:30 PM; the meal follows. Please pray for the leaders, the meal preparers and servers, and for all who participate. May they meet Christ in every endeavor.*

## ✦ 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Amazing Grace* Concert

*The year 2023 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> 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.*

## ✦ Happy Staff Anniversary

*Leah Newsome, pianist, celebrates her 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary at First Baptist Church of Ahoskie on April 24, 2023.*

## ✦ Vacation Bible School 2023

July 24-27 | 4:45 PM-7:45 PM

Age 3—Completed Grade 5

## ✦ This Week’s Calendar

Sunday, April 23 | *The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

9:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

2:00 PM Chairo Rehearsal

Monday, April 24

3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting

Wednesday, April 26

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 28

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

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