



*My steps have held to Your paths;
my feet have not stumbled.— Psalm 117:5*

The Worship of God ✠ April 30, 2023 ✠ The 4th 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 30, 2023 ✕ 11:00 AM

✕ *The Season of the Church Year: The 4th Sunday of Easter*

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 AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Mrs. Kay Byrd and Miss Sophia Byrd, Acolytes

LITANY

Miss Peggy Springfield

Like the murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the Vine,
to the Church in faith assembled, to her midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

INTROIT

Sweet, Sweet Spirit
The Vocal Ensemble

arr. Joel Raney

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Miss Springfield

+HYMN OF PRAISE 7

Worthy of Worship

JUDSON

✠ ✠ ✠

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Rev. Thompson

New Testament Lesson Acts 2:42-47

In Pew Bible, pages 145 & 146 of New Testament

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.**

+HYMN 278

We are Travelers on a Journey

BEACH SPRING

✠ ✠ ✠

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Miss Sophia Byrd

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.

✠ ✠ ✠

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 17:1-9

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, pages 610 & 611 of Old Testament

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

SERMON

Take Something with You

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 509 *Trust and Obey* TRUST AND OBEY

+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 altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Robert (Bob) T. Newsome by Dot Newsome & her family.

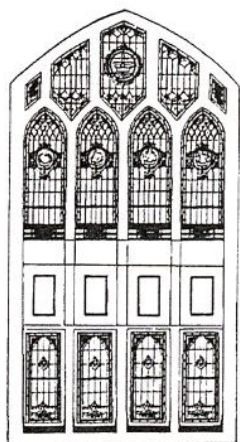
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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 30, 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 celebrate the 4th 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: Jenni Byrd & Nancy Freeman

Ages 3 & 4: Jamie Burns & Betty Cooper

Kindergarten: Bill & Debbie Magette

✦ Prayer Prompt for The Gathering Place Ministries

When the Christian Women's Job Corps ministry moved to The Gathering Place, there was ample space to expand the clothing ministry. Currently it offers workplace and casual clothing for women of all sizes. Donations are welcomed. Please pray for the women for whom the clothing ministry meets a considerable need. And pray for more volunteers to help keep the clothing ministry organized.

✦ Children's End of Year Program

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 | 6:45 PM | In the Sanctuary

It has been our tradition to hold a church-wide meal before the End of Year Program, but because we have so many children (Thanks be to God!), we do not have enough room in our Fellowship Hall to do so. Therefore, the meal will be for the children, their leaders, and their families – including grandparents. Here's the schedule for May 10:

5:15 PM Children's Music & Missions regular gathering.

6:00 PM Meal for children, their families, and leaders.

6:45 PM End of Year Program in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited.

✠ 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. The Sanctuary Choir, the Vocal Ensemble, and Chairo will be singing. And the congregation gets to sing too.

✠ Vacation Bible School 2023

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

Age 3—Completed Grade 5

✠ This Week’s Calendar

Sunday, April 30 | *The 4th Sunday of Easter*

9:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

2:00 PM Chairo Rehearsal

Monday, May 1

3:00 PM Church Staff Meeting

Tuesday, May 2

10:00 AM WMU Groups 2 & 4

Wednesday, May 3

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, May 5

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