



Psalm 34:8

The Worship of God ✦ May 7, 2023 ✦ The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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*The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship congregation.*

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

May 7, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Dempsey Pierce & Mr. Graham Lawrence, Acolytes

LITANY

Based on 1 John 3:1

Miss Stuart Pierce

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God.  
Who are you?  
**I am a child of God.**  
Who are we?  
**We are the children of God, the family of faith.**

INTROIT

*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*  
with *We Are God's Children*  
The Children Choristers

Spiritual; B. S. Mayo

*We are God's children. God loves His children and holds us in His hands.*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mr. Gates Vaughan

+HYMN OF PRAISE *Praise Him! Praise Him*

BONNER

1. Praise Him, praise Him, all ye lit - tle chil - dren,  
2. Love Him, love Him, all ye lit - tle chil - dren,  
3. Thank Him, thank Him, all ye lit - tle chil - dren,  
God is love, God is love. Praise Him, praise Him,  
God is love, God is love. Love Him, love Him,  
God is love, God is love. Thank Him, thank Him,  
all ye lit - tle chil - dren, God is love, God is love.

✠ ✠ ✠

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

The Music Friends

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.**

✠ ✠ ✠

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 34:8, 11-14

Mr. Henry Pierce

In Pew Bible, page 625 of Old Testament

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

+HYMN 348

*Shout to the Lord*

SHOUT TO THE LORD

✠ ✠ ✠

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Miss Leslie Jernigan

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      1 Peter 2:1-3

Dr. Gilliam

In Pew Bible, page 282 of New Testament

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*Next Steps*

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 493    *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

ADELAIDE

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Gilliam

+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 and in loving memory of Eugene & Edith Freeman by Larry & Diane Freeman and Jane Freeman Morris.*

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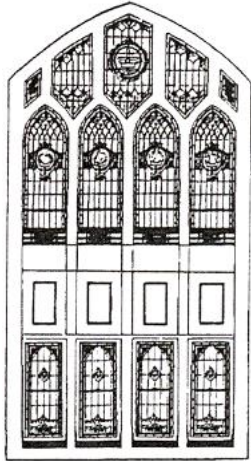
## OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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

May 7, 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 5<sup>th</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: Karen Daly & Lisa Outlaw

Ages 3 & 4: Brian & Victoria Outlaw

Kindergarten: Landis & Will Chamblee

## ✠ 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.

### ✦ High School Baccalaureate 2023 | Sunday, May 21, 2023

We will honor our high school graduates during the 11:00 AM worship service. They are John Boyd, Colby Hauser, and Leah Woodard. A luncheon for the graduates and their families will follow.

### ✦ 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Amazing Grace* Concert | May 21, 2023 | 3:00 PM

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. The Sanctuary Choir, the Vocal Ensemble, and Chair-o will be singing. 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, May 7 | *The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

9:30 AM    Sunday School  
11:00 AM    Worship  
2:00 PM    Chair-o Rehearsal

#### Monday, May 8

3:00 PM    Church Staff Meeting

#### Wednesday, May 10

5:15 PM    Children’s Music & Missions: Age 3 – Grade 5  
6:00 PM    Meal for Children, their Families, and Leaders  
6:45 PM    Children’s End-of-Year Program, *Sanctuary*  
7:40 PM    Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
8:15 PM    Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

#### Thursday, May 11

7:00 PM    Building & Grounds Committee

#### Friday, May 5

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

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