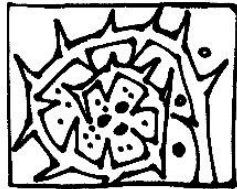
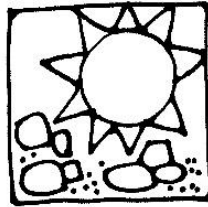




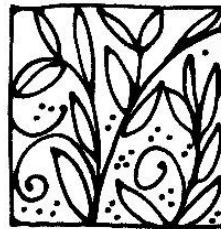
Some seed  
fell beside  
a path...

Some fell  
on rocky  
soil ...



Other seeds  
fell among  
thorns...

but some  
fell on  
good soil!



M A T T H E W 13

The Worship of God ✠ July 16, 2023 ✠ The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

312 West Main Street ♦ Post Office Box 649 ♦ Ahoskie, North Carolina 27910  
[www.fbcahoskie.org](http://www.fbcahoskie.org) ♦ (252) 332-4003 ♦ [office@fbcahoskie.org](mailto:office@fbcahoskie.org)

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

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

July 16, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PIANO PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Mr. Jackson Alexander & Mr. Bennett Pierce, Acolytes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Miss Madison Alexander

God of truth, sow the seed of Your Word in our hearts.

**We receive Your grace with glad and generous hearts.**

Loving Christ, sow the seeds of healing and growth in our bodies and souls.

**We receive Your grace with glad and generous hearts.**

Holy Spirit, sow the seeds of Your love in our lives.

**We receive Your grace with glad and generous hearts. Alleluia!**

+HYMN OF PRAISE 307 *All Creatures of Our God and King* LASST UNS ERFRUEN  
Stanzas 1 & 5

✠ ✠ ✠

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.**

✠ ✠ ✠

THE PSALM

Psalm 119:105-112

Mr. Brayden Conboy

In Pew Bible, page 699 of Old Testament

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mr. Conboy

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Mr. Conboy

The Word of God is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Therefore, let us proclaim together, from the Gospel of John,  
the light of merciful love which illumines our way:

**God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not  
perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but to save the world through Him. – John 3:16-17**

+HYMN 603

*Jesus Loves Me*

CHINA

✠ ✠ ✠

+PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Mr. Henry Pierce

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY – Hymn 705

GLORIA PATRI (Greateorex)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

✠ ✠ ✠

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*  
Sophia Byrd, Soloist

Handt Hanson

*Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of Your Word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow, and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on Your way.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.*

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Rev. Thompson

In Pew Bible, pages 16 & 17 of New Testament

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

SERMON

*Germinated Disciples*

Rev. Thompson

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Thompson

Prayer Response: May Your love take root  
**and grow strong in us.**

✠ ✠ ✠

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 395 *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

SCOTT

✠ ✠ ✠

+BENEDICTION

Rev. Thompson

+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

PIANO POSTLUDE

*Please be seated for the postlude.*

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

*Today's altar flowers are given by Larry and Winnie Matthews to the glory of God and in honor of Jessica, Josh, Lily Ann, and Bryant, and in memory of R.D. Matthews.*

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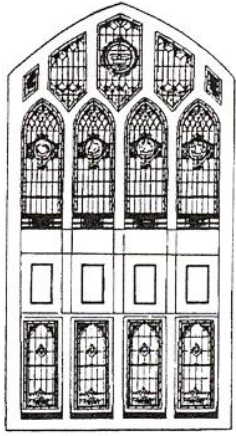
## OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Mr. Brayden Conboy  
CBF Student Church Summer Intern

Rev. Anita D. Thompson  
Temporary Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom  
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Leah Newsome  
Music Associate/Pianist



# A Window on the Weeks Ahead

July 16, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

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## ✠ Worship Notes

◆ **Church Season** ~ *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.*

We are currently in the early days of the season called "Ordinary Time." Rather than meaning "common" or "mundane," this term comes from the word "ordinal," which simply means counted time (First Sunday after Pentecost, etc.). Counted time after Pentecost always begins with Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) and ends with Christ the King Sunday (last Sunday before the beginning of Advent).

The Sundays of Ordinary Time after Pentecost are used to focus on various aspects of the Faith, especially the mission of the church in the world. The color for Ordinary Time is green which is traditionally associated with new life and growth.

## ◆ Childcare During Worship

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

Ages 1 & 2: Kari Pierce & Cheryl Slachta

Ages 3 & 4: Claire & Jordan Harrell

Kindergarten: Avery & Harriet Byrum

## ✠ Vacation Bible School 2023 | July 24-27

4:45 PM-7:45 PM | Age 3 (by 8/31/21) through Completed Grade 5

Have you registered? If you volunteered to help but haven't heard from Rev. Anita, please contact her ASAP.

## ✠ Prayer Prompt for The Gathering Place Ministries

Woody Baker is in the process of doing the legwork for the establishment of a Christian Men's Job Corps for our community. You're invited to pray for this much needed possibility.

## ✠ Deacons' Meeting

July 18, 2023 | 7 PM

Please remember our Deacons in prayer as they help us navigate this interim pastorate period.

## ✠ Church Leadership for 2023-2024 Church Year

*The Nominating Committee has begun their vital work. Many of you should be receiving a phone call in the near future, inviting you to continue serving in your current leadership role(s) and/or trying something new. As you prayerfully consider your place(s) of service, please keep in mind the great need we have for volunteers in our children's ministry. If you'd like to know what those specific needs are, please contact our Preschool Ministry Coordinator Debbie Magette, at (252) 209-7021.*

*Can you see yourself serving on any of the following committees? Or would you enjoy teaching our preschoolers, grade school children, or middle school and high school students?*

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| •Audio & Visual Services     | •Music                  |
| •Bereavement                 | •Security               |
| •Building & Grounds          | •Senior Adult Ministry  |
| •Children's Ministry Council | •Technology             |
| •Development                 | •Traveling Samaritans   |
| •Finance                     | •Ushers/Greeters        |
| •Hostess                     | •Wedding                |
| •Investments/Endowment       | •Worship Decorating     |
| •Missions                    | •Youth Ministry Council |

*Members of the Nominating Committee are Charles Freeman, Debbie Greene, Claudia Morris, Peggy Springfield, Mary Ann Umphlett, and Andy Woodard.*

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