



The Worship of God ✠ July 23, 2023 ✠ The 8th Sunday after Pentecost

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

July 23, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The 8th 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. William Alexander & Miss Abby Alexander, Acolytes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Miss Judy G. Pierce

We've come to worship God,
who loved us before we were yet born,
who knows us even better than we know ourselves,
whose presence never leaves us,
and whose love for us never ceases.

This is our God.

Let's worship God together!

+HYMN OF PRAISE 296 *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

HOLY MANNA

✠ ✠ ✠

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 139:1-12, 23-24

Mr. Brayden Conboy

In Pew Bible, pages 710 & 711 of Old Testament

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mr. Conboy

Prayer Response: When we . . . **forgive us.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Mr. Conboy

God demonstrates His own love for us in this:

while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

—Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1, NIV

ANTHEM OF ASSURANCE

Sweetest Name I Know

arr. Hugh Livingston Jr.

The Sanctuary Choir

There's within my heart a melody; Jesus whispers sweet and low,
"Fear not, I am with you, peace, be still," in all of life's ebb and flow.

*Refrain: Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know,
fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go.*

All my life was wrecked by sin and strife, discord filled my heart with pain,
Jesus swept across the broken strings, stirred the slumbering chords again. *[Refrain]*

Soon He's coming back to welcome me far beyond the starry sky;
I shall wing my flight to worlds unknown, I shall reign with Him on high. *[Refrain]*

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EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 8:12-25

Mrs. Penny Rose

In Pew Bible, pages 191 & 192 of New Testament

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

+HYMN OF HOPE

This Is My Father's World

TERRA PATRIS

See next page.

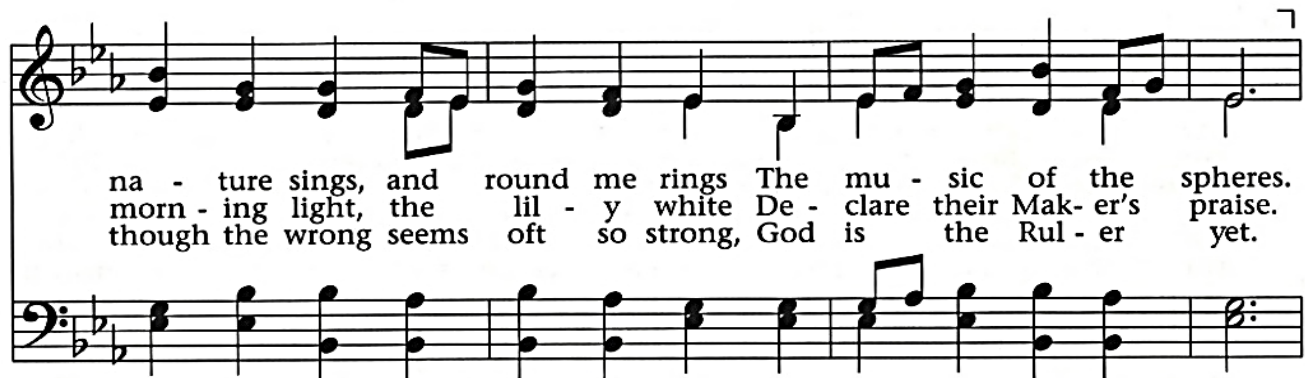
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This Is My Father's World

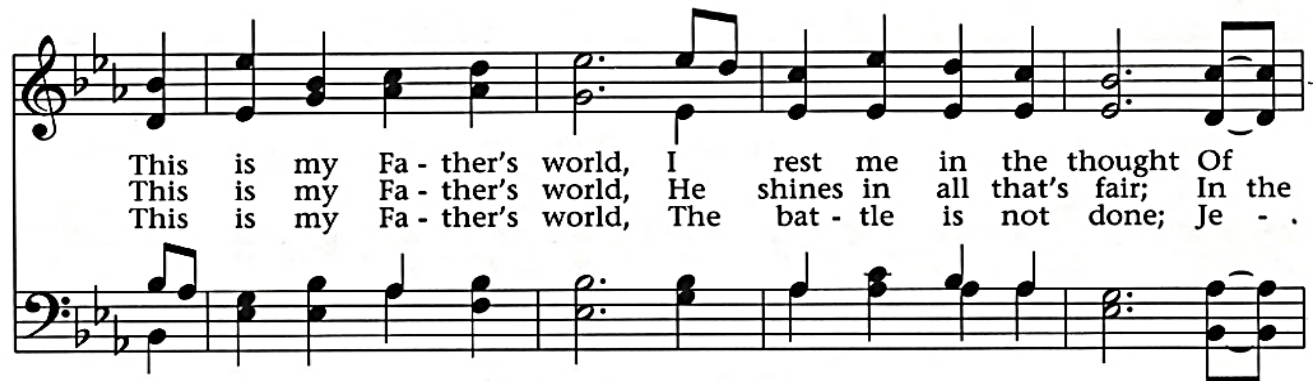
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth — Genesis 1:1 NIV



1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-t'ning ears, All
2. This is my Fa-ther's world, The birds their car-ols raise; The
3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for-get That



na-ture sings, and round me rings The mu-sic of the spheres.
morn-ing light, the lil-y white De-clare their Mak-er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world, I rest me in the thought Of
This is my Fa-ther's world, He shines in all that's fair; In the
This is my Fa-ther's world, The bat-tle is not done; Je- .



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the won-ders wrought.
rust-ling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev'-ry-where.
sus who died shall be sat-is-fied, And earth and heav-en be one.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
In Pew Bible, pages 17 & 18 of New Testament

Rev. Thompson

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

SERMON

Weedy Disciples

Rev. Thompson

PRAYER

Rev. Thompson

Creator God, Holy Gardener who sustains and nurtures all life,
open us to Your life-giving grace and transformative love.
As we notice our internal struggles,
**empower us to greet the wheat and the weeds in our own hearts
with care and compassion.**
As we recognize the challenges and suffering in our community,
**inspire us to meet the weeds and the wheat in our neighbors
with acceptance and hope.**
We know that You alone have the final say,
and so, we, Your weedy disciples, give ourselves over to You,
asking that, despite the weeds,
You will transform us into instruments of Your hospitality and grace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠

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 545 *In the Bulb*

PROMISE

✠ ✠ ✠

+PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Mrs. Rose

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY – Hymn 705

GLORIA PATRI (Greatest)

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.



+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 to the glory of God by Butch and Sandra Hassell and their daughter, Beth Northcott.

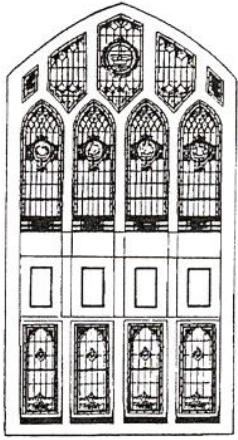
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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 23, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✠ 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: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene

Ages 3 & 4: Michelle Boyd & Sarah Jenkins

Kindergarten: Kimmi & Nathan Pierce

✠ Vacation Bible School 2023 | July 24-27

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

We begin tomorrow! Please pray each day for the children and their leaders as we learn from people of the New Testament how to change the world in the name of Jesus.

- ♦ Day 1: *Changemakers Ask Questions* | John 3:1 – 17, Nicodemus
- ♦ Day 2: *Changemakers Work Together to Solve Problems* | Mark 2:1 – 12, Five Friends
- ♦ Day 3: *Changemakers Respond to the Needs of Others* | Acts 2:42 – 47, Early Church
- ♦ Day 4: *Changemakers Build Bridges* | Acts 10, Peter and Cornelius

✠ Church Security Update

At their July 18, 2023 Deacons' meeting, the deacons approved a recommendation to employ a deputy from the Hertford County Sheriff's Office to provide security on Sundays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Though a start date has not been set, the deacons wanted to inform the church of these plans.

✂ Vacation Bible School Leadership Meeting & Decorating

Sunday, July 23 | 2:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Come and help us decorate!

✂ 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.

✂ 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?

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|------------------------------|------------------------|
| •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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