



I look up to the hills,
but where will my help
really come from?

My help will come
from the **LORD,**
the Creator of
heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2

The Worship of God ✠ August 20, 2023 ✠ The 12th Sunday after Pentecost

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

August 20, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The 12th Sunday after Pentecost*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PIANO PRELUDE

For Your Meditation

*We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord,
born of His Spirit, established by His Word;
Our cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Him we stand:
O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.*

*We are God's loved ones, the Bride of Christ our Lord,
for we have known it, the love of God outpoured;
Now let us learn how to return the gift of love once given:
O let us share each joy and care, and live with a zeal that pleases Heaven.*

*We are the Body of which the Lord is Head,
called to obey Him, now risen from the dead;
He wills us be a family, diverse yet truly one:
O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall His work on earth be done.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Mr. Dempsey Pierce & Miss Stuart Pierce, Acolytes

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 122:1

Mr. Heath Britt

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord!

**This is the place where we worship our God,
where we sing and pray and fellowship with one another.**

This is God's house, a sanctuary, a place set aside for the most sacred business.

**This is the place where we worship our God,
where scripture is read, and preached, and discerned, and proclaimed.**

How will you receive God's invitation to worship Him this day?

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord!

INTROIT

I Was Glad, I Was Glad
The Sanctuary Choir

Stan Pethel

INVOCATION

Mr. Britt

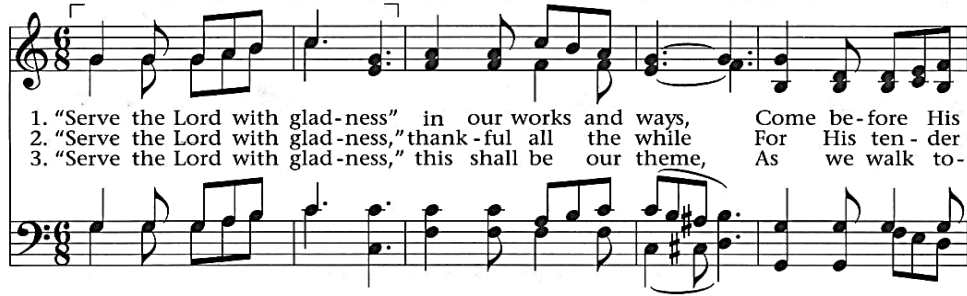
+HYMN OF PRAISE

Serve the Lord with Gladness

LEE

Serve the Lord with Gladness

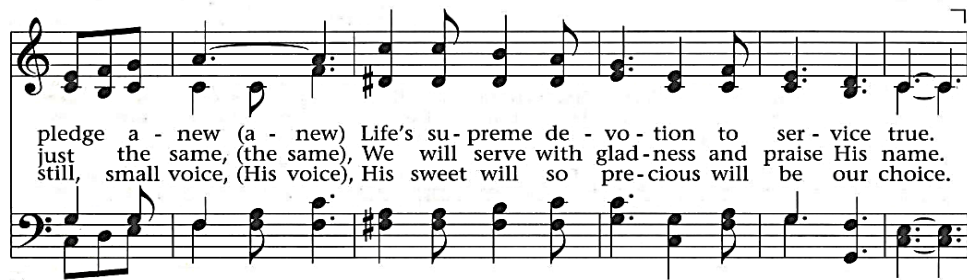
Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs — Psalm 100:2 NIV



1. "Serve the Lord with glad-ness" in our works and ways, Come be-fore His
 2. "Serve the Lord with glad-ness," thank-ful all the while For His ten-der
 3. "Serve the Lord with glad-ness," this shall be our theme, As we walk to-



pres-ence with our songs of praise; Un-to Him our Mak-er we would
 mer-cies, for His lov-ing smile: Bless-ed truth en-dur-ing, al-ways
 geth-er in His love su-preme: Lis-t'ning, ev-er lis-t'ning for the



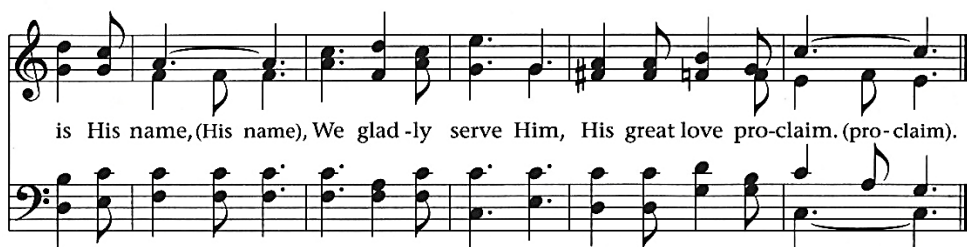
pledge a - new (a - new) Life's su-preme de - vo - tion to ser - vice true.
 just the same, (the same), We will serve with glad-ness and praise His name.
 still, small voice, (His voice), His sweet will so pre-cious will be our choice.



"Serve Him with glad-ness," en-ter His courts with song; (with song); To our Cre-



at - or true prais-es be - long; (be-long): Great is His mer - cy, won-der-ful



is His name, (His name), We glad-ly serve Him, His great love pro-claim. (pro-claim).



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.**



NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Colossians 3:12-14

Dr. Lyndsay Britt

In Pew Bible, page 246 of New Testament

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

thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Thompson

Prayer Response: Lord, in Your mercy,
forgive us.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Thompson

+HYMN 617

Heavenly Sunlight

SUNLIGHT



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 121

Rev. Thompson

In Pew Bible, pages 702 of Old Testament

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

thanks be to God.

SERMON

Upward Together

Rev. Thompson



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 255

We Are God's People

SYMPHONY



+PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Dr. Britt

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.

+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.

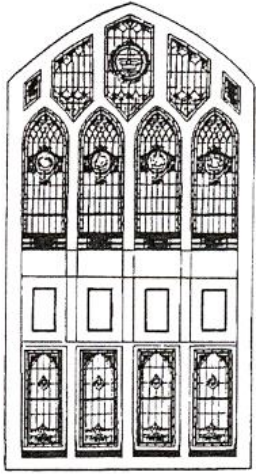
Today's altar flowers are given by Glenn, Russell, and Mark Overman, and their families, to the glory of God and in loving memory of Bill and Ruth Overman.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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

August 20, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✠ Childcare During Worship

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

Ages 1 & 2: Nancy Perry & Mary Page Pierce

Ages 3 & 4: Claire & Jordan Harrell

Kindergarten: Lily Ann Brinkley & Anna Dawson

✠ Nominating Committee Report for 2023-2024 Church Year

The Nominating Committee report was mailed on Thursday, August 17, 2023. Please let the church staff know if corrections are needed. On Sunday, August 27, during the worship hour, we will vote on the report.

✠ In Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to the family of FBCA member, Violet Williams, who died on August 11, 2023. A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at 2:00 PM at Garrett-Sykes Funeral Services in Ahoskie.

✠ Church Conference | Wednesday, August 30, 2023 | 6:30 PM

At the August 16, 2023, Deacon's Meeting, a unanimous vote was made to call Rev. Dr. Dennis Bazemore as our Interim Pastor. Per the By-Laws, a Church Conference and vote is required to pass this motion from the Deacon Board. Additionally, during the meeting, eight church members were chosen and have agreed to serve on the Pastor Search Committee. The members are Don Joyner, Claudia Morris, Ashleé Perry, Mary Paige Pierce, Chuck Revelle, Cheryl Slachta, Jim Wiggins, and Lee Wilson. We will have a called Church Conference on Wednesday August 30, 2023, at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall to vote on these two very important matters concerning the future of our Church. Please make every effort to attend.

✠ Women's Missionary Union (WMU) Churchwide Project

We hope to collect 20 new double/full sized sheet sets for the Chowan University's international students. Please bring donations to FBC Ahoskie and place them in the closet across from the kitchen. Contact Claire Presley at (252) 287-6132 if you have any questions.

✠ 2023-2024 School Year

The 2023-2024 school year has begun for most of our children and youth. Gates & Hertford Counties Traditional Schools will hold their first day of classes on August 28. Please pray for our students, their teachers, staff, and administrators. May the 2023-2024 School Year be filled with blessings.

✘ Looking Ahead

♦ Wednesday, August 23

7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir rehearsals resume.

8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble rehearsals resume.

♦ Sunday, August 27

9:45 PM Sunday School promotion for children & youth.

11:00 AM Bible Presentations: Grades 1 & 6 students & Blessing of the Backpacks for all students.

Church Conference: Nominating Committee Report Vote

♦ Wednesday, August 30

5:15 PM Children's Music & Missions resume.

6:30 PM Church Conference | Fellowship Hall

Interim Pastor & Pastor Search Committee Votes

♦ Friday, September 1 | New Church Year Begins

Church leadership, as found in the 2023-2024 Nominating Committee report, begins their service.