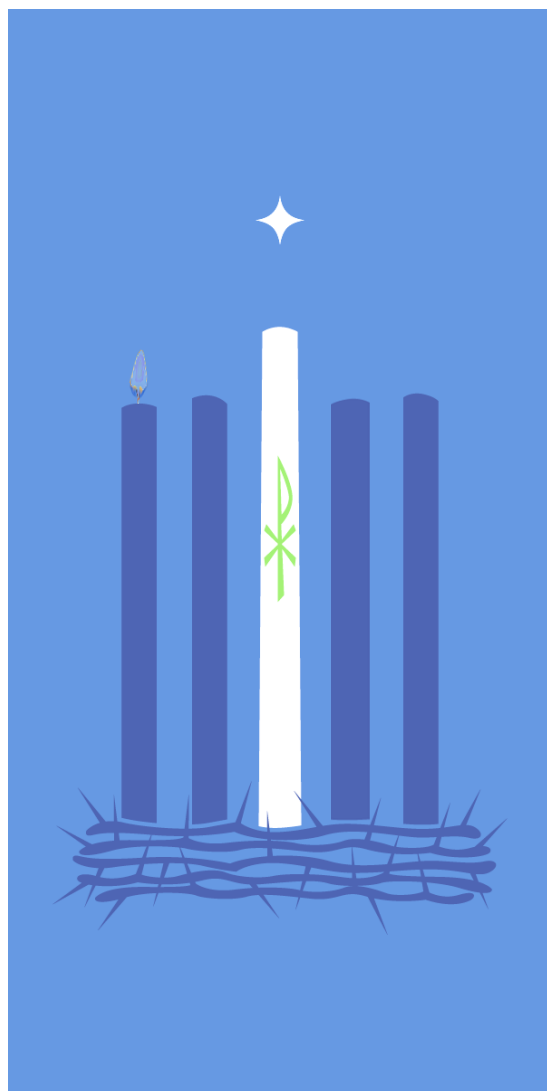


The First Sunday of Advent



The Worship of God ✦ December 3, 2023 ✦ The First Sunday of Advent

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

312 West Main St. ♦ 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

December 3, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: The First Sunday of Advent*

Advent is . . .

“a period to smooth what was rough and to straighten what was crooked in the soul.”

- Celebrate Advent

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Dr. Dennis Bazemore

PIANO PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Brayden Conboy

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

**The pure in heart shall see God, but our hearts are not pure:
they are darkened by sin.**

Jesus, the Light of the World, came into the world
to chase away the dark shadows of sin.

Can this Christ create clean hearts in us?

Can He renew a right spirit in us?

Indeed, He can! Christ is the heart of Christmas!

Christ is the heart of Christmas!

ADVENT PRAYER

Rev. Anita Thompson

Soloist: Lord, You left Your throne and Your kingly crown
when You came to earth for me;
but in Bethlehem’s home there was found no room
for Your holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
there is room in my heart for Thee.

Congregation: O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
there is room in my heart for Thee.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Hope

Mr. & Mrs. Austin & Leslie Lawrence,
Graham & Bracy

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6, 9-10a
In Pew Bible, page 784 of Old Testament

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

Lighting the Candle of Hope

A candle burns, the first marker of our Advent journey.
As we set out, may we travel hopefully.
As we set out, God of journeys, travel with us. Amen.

+HYMN 83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

✠ ✠ ✠

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Rev. Thompson

People of God, what is your 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 99

View the Present Through the Promise

AR HYD Y NOS

+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Mr. Conboy

As we worship God with our offerings, this is our prayer:
God of Glory, we eagerly anticipate the joy-filled celebration of Jesus' birth.
As we open ourselves again to this holy wonder, we offer You our gifts.
May the ministries they support help others to receive the saving message
of the Christ Child, in whose name, we pray. Amen.

PIANO OFFERTORY

+ADVENT DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 2:1-7

Dr. Bazemore

In Pew Bible, page 71 of New Testament

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

SERMON

Don't Crowd Christ Out of Christmas

Dr. Bazemore

INVITATION

+HYMN OF RESPONSE 159 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

ST. ELIZABETH

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Bazemore

+ADVENT RESPONSE

Hymn 110

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Stanza 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me for forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

+PIANO POSTLUDE

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

*We give thanks to our Worship Decorating Committee who so beautifully decorated our sanctuary for Advent.
To God be the glory.*

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

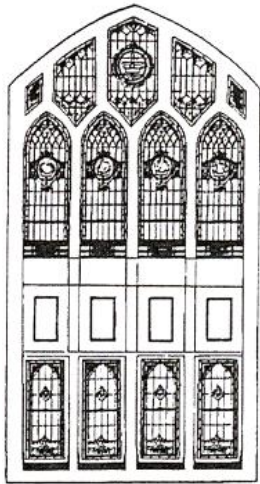
Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

Dr. Dennis N. Bazemore
Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Leah Newsome
Pianist

Mr. Brayden Conboy
Youth Minister



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 3, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✦ Worship Notes

The Season of Advent – Today we begin a new church year with the observance of the season of Advent. The word “Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During this season, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for His coming again. In Advent, we are reminded that we live between the first and the second coming of the Lord.

Advent encompasses the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to the celebration of Christmas. It presents an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return. – UMC & PCUSA

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

Ages 1 & 2: Bland & Nancy Baker

Ages 3 & 4: Brian & Victoria Outlaw

Kindergarten: Landis & Will Chamblee

✦ 2024 Budget Vote is Today

On Wednesday, November 29, 2023, the proposed 2024 Budget was discussed among the congregation without a vote. Today, we will vote on the budget without a discussion.

✦ Global Missions Offering Ingathering | Sunday, December 10, 2023

100% of your gifts to the annual Global Missions Offering supports the long-term presence of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries serving in the United States and around the world. If you would like to know more about CBF’s mission work, you are invited to pick up a copy of *Prayers of the People 2023-2024* which may be found near the sanctuary entrances.

✦ Operation Christmas Child

We offer our thanks to Melanie Byrum, our OCC Coordinator, for her faithful work and dedication to the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry. Our church donated 57 boxes, and, along with the boxes from other churches and individuals in our community, we collected 1,871 boxes. Thank you all for your help in this ministry.

✦ Youth Christmas Party | December 10, 2023 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Students in grades 6-12 will meet at the home of Brent & Kari Pierce for dinner at 5:30 PM. After dinner, they will go Christmas caroling. The evening will end with dessert at the home of Walt and Mary Page Pierce.

✦ Children & Choirs' Rehearsal Schedule | Wednesday, December 13, 2023

- 5:15 PM—5:40 PM • Children Choristers (Grades 1-5): Birthday Party for Jesus
• Music Friends (Age 3-K): Rehearsal in the Sanctuary.
- 5:45 PM—6:15 PM • Music Friends (Age 3-K): Birthday Party for Jesus
• Children Choristers (Grades 1-5): Rehearsal in the Sanctuary.
- 6:15 PM—7:00 PM Dinner (Reservations required.)
- 7:00 PM—7:30 PM Christmas Cantata rehearsal with Children Choristers (Grades 1-5), in the Sanctuary.
- 7:30 PM—8:30 PM Christmas Choir & Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal, in the Sanctuary.

✦ Annual Christmas Cantata | Sunday, December 17, 2023 | 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

The Music Friends (Age 3-K), Children Choristers (Grades 1-5), Chairo, the Christmas Choir, and the Vocal Ensemble will all lead us in a celebration of the birth of the Christ Child.

✦ This Week's Calendar

Today, December 3

- 9:45 AM Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Worship
- 2:00 PM Chairo Rehearsal
- 2:45 PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal
- 5:30 PM Youth Group Gathering (Grades 6-12)

Monday, December 4

- 3:00 PM Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December

- 10:00 AM WMU Groups 2 & 4

Wednesday, December 6

- 5:15 PM • Children's Music & Missions
• Prayer Meeting/Bible Study for Adults & Youth (Grades 6-12)
- 6:15 PM Dinner
- 7:00 PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal