

The Second Sunday of Advent



The Worship of God ✦ December 10, 2023 ✦ The Second Sunday of Advent

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 10, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

- Phillip Brooks, 1868

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

PIANO PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Brayden Conboy

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

But every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood.

From ancient times, just as God promised His people a Savior,
He also promised to give them a new heart.

Who is this promised Savior? How shall He give us a new heart?

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant
with my people. I will put my law within them and write it upon their hearts;
for I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

This Savior is Christ, the Lord, the heart of Christmas!

Christ is the heart of Christmas!

ADVENT PRAYER

Rev. 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 *Peace*

Mrs. Elizabeth Craft &
Mrs. Mary Ann Umphlett

New Testament Lesson Philippians 4:6-9

In Pew Bible, page 242 & 243 of New Testament

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

Lighting the Candle of Peace

A candle burns, the second marker of our Advent journey.

As we continue, may we travel peacefully.

As we continue, God of journeys, speak to us.

+HYMN 127

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

✠ ✠ ✠

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 132

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

Stanzas 1, 3 & 4

+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.**

CHORAL OFFERTORY

Celtic Noel

James Koerts

The Christmas Choir

+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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 40:1-11

Dr. Bazemore

In Pew Bible, pages 816 & 817 of Old Testament

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

SERMON

Decorations, Presents, Preparations

Dr. Bazemore

+HYMN OF RESPONSE 107 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS+HYMN OF RESPONSE 107 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

We will receive the Offering for Global Missions during the singing of this carol.

Please come forward down the center aisles, place your offering in one of the displayed boxes, and return to your seat by way of the window side aisles.

+BENEDICTION Dr. Bazemore

+ADVENT RESPONSE

Hymn 110

Away in a Manger
Stanza 3

MUELLER

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

Go in peace to love and serve the world.

+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

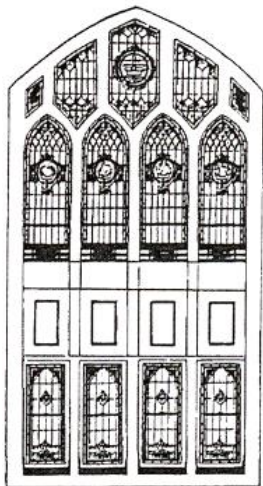
Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

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 10, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✠ Worship Notes

The Season of Advent – Today marks the second Sunday of the new Christian Year as we observance of the second Sunday 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.

Childcare During Worship – We give thanks for those caring for our young ones today in Extended Session while we worship: Ages 1 & 2: Joyce Leary & Taylor F. Rose
Ages 3 & 4: David & Elizabeth Davis
Kindergarten: Melanie Byrum & Winnie Matthews

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

Today we will receive the annual Global Missions Offering. 100% of your gifts support 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.

✠ Youth Minister News

On November 26, 2023, Brayden Conboy presented to church leadership a letter of resignation from his Youth Minister position at FBCA. This is his last Sunday with us. We offer our thanks to Brayden for the many ways he has ministered among us and alongside us while pursuing a bachelor's degree at Chowan University. We wish him well as he approaches his final semester and seeks to follow God's lead in what comes next.

✠ 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.

✠ Annual Christmas Cantata | Sunday, December 17, 2022 | 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.

✦ 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.
• Prayer Meeting/Bible Study for Adults & Youth (Grades 6-12)
- 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 Chairo, Christmas Choir & Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal, in the Sanctuary.

✦ This Week's Calendar

Today, December 10

- 9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship
2:00 PM Chairo Rehearsal
2:30 PM Christmas Choir Rehearsal
5:30–7:30 PM Youth Group Christmas Party (Grades 6-12)

Monday, December 11

- 3:00 PM Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 13

** See Wednesday Activity Schedule Above**

Thursday, December 14

- 10:30 AM Women's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

✦ Deacon Ordination & Installation | Sunday, January 7, 2024

During the 11:00 AM worship service on January 7, 2024, Heath Britt, Alex Britton, and Brian Outlaw will be ordained. Claire Presley and Penny Rose, previously ordained, will be installed along with those newly ordained.

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