

# oel

## *A Cantata for Christmas*

December 17, 2023 ✦ 11:00 AM

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

312 W. Main St. ♦ 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

December 17, 2023 ✕ 11:00 AM

✕ *The Season of the Church Year: The Third Sunday of Advent*

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O Thou of God and man the Son;  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou my soul's glory, JOY, and crown.*

- Author Unknown

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Dr. Dennis Bazemore

PIANO PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mr. Scott Outlaw

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

**But our hearts are trained to be greedy.**

**We are under God's condemnation.**

The Lord has said: "I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord."

**How can these things be?**

**Can our hearts truly be remade?**

"I will give them a new heart and a new mind," says the Lord of hosts. "I will take away their stubborn heart of stone and give them an obedient heart."

These things shall come to pass through Jesus, the Christ!

**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 Joy

Ms. Jenni Byrd & Sophia

New Testament Lesson Romans 15:13

In Pew Bible, page 199 of New Testament

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

## Lighting the Candle of Joy

A candle burns, the third marker of our Advent journey.  
As we continue, may we travel joyfully.  
As we continue, God of journeys, guide our footsteps.

# Noel

## A Cantata for Christmas

### *Celtic Noel*

James Koerts, *Arranger & Composer*  
The Christmas Choir



## From the Music Friends

### *Welcome Jesus*

Tracey Craig McKibben, *Arranger*

### *Jesus is Born*

Ruth Elaine Schram, *Composer*

### *Gloria*

Elizabeth Charles, *Composer*

### *Ring, Oh Ring the Bells*

Claire Russell, *Composer*



## **+Carol Sing**    *Joy to the World with For Unto us a Child Is Born*

Mark Hayes, *Arranger*  
Congregation & the Christmas Choir

Everyone: Joy to the world! the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Women & Children: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Men: repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
Everyone: repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Choir Only: And the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God,  
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Everyone: He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

Choir Only: For unto us a Child is born.  
Joy to the world!



### ***While By the Sheep***

Lloyd Larson, *Arranger*  
Patrick Rose, Trumpet

***The offering will be received during “While By the Sheep.”***

### ***Rise Up Shepherds and Follow***

Greg Gilpin, *Arranger*  
Chairo



### ***Christ Child Noel***

Patti Drennan, *Arranger*  
The Children Choristers & the Christmas Choir

### ***Hope of Christmas Light***

Patricia Mock, *Composer & Lyricist* | Joshua Metzger, *Arranger*  
Music Friends, the Children Choristers & the Christmas Choir



***Noel, Sing We Here!***

Larry Shackley, *Arranger*  
The Christmas Choir

**Pastoral Remarks**

*Dr. Dennis Bazemore*

**Benediction**

*Rev. Anita Thompson*

**+Reprise    *Joy to the World with For Unto us a Child Is Born***

Mark Hayes, *Arranger*  
Congregation & the Christmas Choir

Everyone: He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

Choir Only: For unto us a Child is born. Joy to the world!

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

## **MUSIC & MISSION FRIENDS**

*Age 3 through Kindergarten*

Ava Blanchard	Helen Chamblee	Ryleigh Morris	Libby Pierce
Adalyn Britt	Gracie Griffin	Peyton Outlaw	Hudson Rose
Wade Britt	Olivia Jenkins	Boone Perry	Eli Tinkham
Wyatt Britt	Bracy Lawrence	Nash Perry	Liam Tinkham
Wells Britton	Maddie Morris	Ruth Perry	

*Suzanne Newbern, Leader*

*Lyndsay Britt, Debbie Magette & Lisa Outlaw, Assistants*

## **THE CHILDREN CHORISTERS**

*Grades 1 through 5*

Abby Alexander	Corbett Britton	Winslow Gallop	Bennett Pierce
Jackson Alexander	Sophia Byrd	Leslie Jernigan	Lucy Pierce
Madison	Mac Chamblee	Grant Johnson	Stuart Pierce
Alexander	Pace Davis	Morgan Johnson	Briar Rascoe
Carleigh Bailey	Emma Flythe	Graham	Charlie Rascoe
Caroline Baker	Lily Flythe	Lawrence	Carson Rose
Jackson Baker	Mary Welch	Sarah Newbern	Milly Vaughan
Bryant Brinkley	Gallop	Freeman Perry	

*Anita Thompson, Leader*

*Ann Cooke, Georgia Copeland, Jayne Frei & Vicky Overman, Assistants*

*Linda Bazemore, Accompanist*

## **CHAIRO**

*Soprano 1*

Jamie Burns  
Jenni Byrd  
Sophia Byrd  
Betty Joyner  
Claudia Morris  
Vicky Overman  
Melissa Pasek

*Soprano 2*

Leah Newsome  
Ashleé Perry

*Alto*

Linda Alexander  
Lyndsay Britt  
Betty Cooper

## THE CHRISTMAS CHOIR

<i>Soprano</i>	<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Bass</i>	<i>Alto</i>
Rita Myers Bula	Jim Wiggins*	Dennis Bazemore	Linda Alexander*
Jamie Burns		Scott Outlaw*	Betty Cooper
Jenni Byrd		Brandon Zoch*	Carol Jean Fretwell
Harriet Byrum*			Ashleé Perry*
Claudia Morris			Judy G. Pierce*
Vicky Overman*			Bonnie Revelle
Melissa Pasek			Cheryl Slachta
Claire Presley*			
Dana Wiggins			

*Leah Newsome & Linda Bazemore, Accompanists*

\* = Vocal Ensemble Members

## INSTRUMENTALISTS

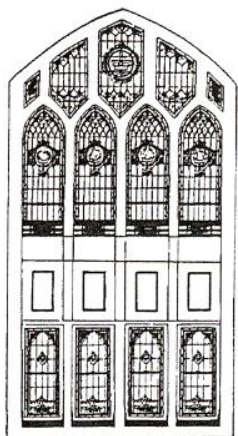
Janice Cesil, *Flute*  
Patrick Rose, *Trumpet & Percussion*

## *Music Ministry Participation Opportunities*

***Music Friends*** – Age 3 through Kindergarten, and ***Children Choristers*** – Grades 1-5, meet each Wednesday from 5:15 to 6:15 PM, September through the first Wednesday in May. All children in the Roanoke-Chowan area are invited to join us. We are currently on Christmas break and will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

***The Sanctuary Choir*** is our primary worship leadership choir which sings a variety of music styles. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. Rehearsals resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

***Chairo*** is an intergenerational music ensemble for students in Grades 4 through 12, and adults of all ages. *Chairo* sings Praise & Worship music and multi-cultural world music. We meet on Sundays from 2:00 to 3:00 PM and will resume rehearsals on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The word *Chairo* comes from the Greek word χαίρω meaning “to rejoice.”



# A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 17, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

---

## ✠ Worship Notes

*The Season of Advent* – Today marks the third Sunday of the new Christian Year as we observe 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: Nancy Perry & Mary Page Pierce

Ages 3 & 4: Claire & Jordan Harrell

Kindergarten: Lily Ann Brinkley & Sarah Grace Britton

✠ **Annual Christmas Cantata** | Today, 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. Following the evening presentation, we will have a Christmas Cookie reception in our Fellowship Hall.

## ✠ Next Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:45 AM | Sunday School

11:00 AM | Observance of the Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM | Observance of Christmas Eve

✠ **Carols, Candlelight & Communion** | Christmas Eve Worship | 5:00 PM  
We’ll gather in in our sanctuary to hear again the sacred story of our Savior’s birth and to sing beloved carols in honor of the Christ Child. We’ll celebrate Holy Communion, and end the service, as is our tradition, singing “Silent Night” by candlelight.

## ✠ Deacon Ordination & Installation | Sunday, January 7, 2024

During the 11:00 AM worship service, 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.



## ✦ Global Missions Offering

*The annual Global Missions Offering supports the long-term presence of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries serving in the United States and around the world. 100% of your gifts are for the ministries of those missionaries. 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. Or visit the CBF website: [cbf.net](http://cbf.net). To date, we have collected \$2490.00.*

## ✦ This Week's Calendar

### Today, December 17

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Christmas Cantata (1<sup>st</sup> Presentation)

5:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal, *Sanctuary*

5:15 PM Christmas Choir, Chairo & Vocal Ensemble, *Sanctuary*

6:00 PM Christmas Cantata (2<sup>nd</sup> Presentation)

7:00 PM Christmas Cookie Reception, *Fellowship Hall*

### Monday, December 18

3:00 PM Staff Meeting

5:45 PM Girl Scouts

7:00 PM Building & Grounds Committee

### Tuesday, December 19

11:30 AM Staff Christmas Lunch

### Wednesday, December 20

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM Ahoskie Woman's Club

No afternoon or evening activities.

## ✦ Church Office Hours the Week of Christmas

Monday, Christmas Day | Closed

Tuesday, December 26, 2023 | Closed

Wednesday, December 27 – Friday, December 29, 2023 | Open

---

FBC Ahoskie holds a copyright license (20520822 Size B) and a streaming license (20520815 Size B) with CCLI, account 1577531. We also hold a copyright license with One License, A-609881.