

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



The Worship of God ✦ December 24, 2023 ✦ The Fourth 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 24, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

*Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine,
Love was born at Christmas, Star and Angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead, Love Incarnate, Love Divine,
Worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all humankind, Love for plea and gift and sign.*

- Christina Rossetti, 1885

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

PIANO PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Miss Ashleé Perry

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

Though we honor God with our lips, our hearts are too often far from Him.

The Word must be near you, on your lips and in your hearts,
that is, the Word of faith which we preach.

**O Lord, put Your Word in our hearts and on our lips
that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith,
that the peace of Christ may rule in our hearts.**

Put Your Word in our hearts and on our lips, O Lord,
that we may diligently teach them to our children.

May we always remember that 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 *Love*

Miss Madison Alexander &
Mr. Jackson Alexander

New Testament Lesson John 3:16

In Pew Bible, page 114 of New Testament

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

Lighting the Candle of Love

A candle burns, the fourth marker of our Advent journey.
As we continue, may we travel lovingly.

God of Mary, may the light of Your love be born anew in us.

+HYMN 105

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS'

✂ ✂ ✂

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 114

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child
Stanzas 1 & 3

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Miss Perry

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

Noel, Sing We Here!
The Christmas Choir

arr. Larry Shackley

+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.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:39-56

Dr. Bazemore

In Pew Bible, pages 69 & 70 of New Testament

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

SERMON

The Birth, Praise God!

Dr. Bazemore

INVITATION

+HYMN 112

Child in the Manger

BUNESSAN

+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.

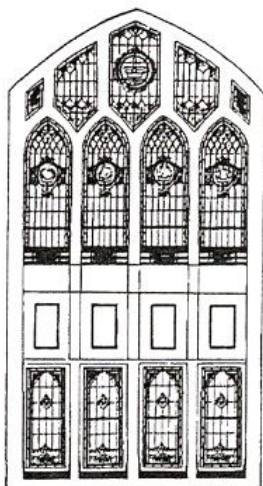
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

Dr. Dennis N. Bazemore
Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Leah Newsome
Pianist



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 24, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✠ Worship Notes

The Season of Advent – Today marks the fourth Sunday of the new Christian Year as we observance of the fourth 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: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene
Ages 3 & 4: Will Blanchard & Michelle Boyd
Kindergarten: Volunteers Needed

✠ 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.

✠ Chili Cook-off | Sunday, January 21, 2024 | 5:00 PM

Begin planning to offer your best chili recipe. Further details coming soon!

✠ Christian Women’s Job Corps Update & Needs

Many thanks to First Baptist Church and WMU for beginning CWJC in our area and for supporting it to grow and help others for the last 11 years. This ministry has grown. Woody Baker is doing an excellent job through CBF and missionaries in our area.

We are happy to announce the success of one North Street House participant, who we assisted in finding an apartment, furniture, and most importantly, a closer walk with God. One person will be moving in soon. We have 6 participants, some new and some finishing. As you’re cleaning out, please consider donating your used household items to our ministry: baking dishes, pots, pans, TV’s, furniture, etc. May God bless you and keep you in His care.

✦ 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.

✦ Operation Inasmuch Christmas Day Lunch Update

For various reasons, our church, along with other area churches, will not be hosting the Christmas Day lunch this year. We hope to renew this tradition for Christmas 2024.

✦ Wednesday Night Activities & Rehearsals

We are taking a holiday break from Wednesday night activities and rehearsals from December 20, 2023 to January 3, 2024. We look forward to resuming on January 10, 2024.

✦ Women's Bible Study Resumes

January 11, 2024 | 10:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

✦ This Week's Calendar

Today, December 24

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Carols, Candlelight & Communion Service

Monday, December 25 & Tuesday, December 26

Church Offices Closed

✦ Regular Church Office Hours

Monday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Tuesday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

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