

**God of the past,
accept the people we have been
and the baggage we drag behind
us.**

**God of the present,
accept the people we are now
and the potential that lies within
us.**

**God of the future,
accept the people we could be
and by your Spirit transform us.**

~ John Birch

The Worship of God ✠ December 31, 2023
First Sunday after Christmas ✠ New Year's Eve

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

312 West Main Street ♦ Post Office Box 649 ♦ Ahoskie, North Carolina 27910
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The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship congregation.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 31, 2023 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: First Sunday after Christmas
New Year's Eve*

*The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen His glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. - John 1:14*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Dr. Dennis Bazemore

PIANO PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Mrs. Cheryl Slachta

On this first Sunday after Christmas Day . . .
O, that our tongues were like bells to ring out the joy,
and our hands like drums to beat a holy rhythm.

O, that our voices sounded like the heavenly choir,
and our feet were lively enough to dance our praise.

O, that our knees were strong enough to kneel forever in wonder,
and our hearts could forever ponder the joy and share the love.

INTROIT

Ring the Bells
Vicky Overman, Soloist

Harry Bollback

*Ring the bells! Ring the bells! Let the whole world know,
Christ was born in Bethlehem many years ago.
Born to die that man might live, came to earth new life to give
born of Mary, born so low many years ago.*

*God the Father gave His Son, gave His own beloved One
to this wicked, sinful earth to bring mankind His love, new birth!*

*Ring the bells! Ring the bells! Let the whole world know,
Christ the Savior lives today, as He did so long ago!*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mrs. Slachta

+HYMN OF PRAISE 126 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* REGENT SQUARE

✂ ✂ ✂

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING

Rev. Anita 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.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

Mrs. Penny Rose

In Pew Bible, pages 71 & 72 of New Testament

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

Thanks be to God.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Thompson

Prayer Response: Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

+CAROL 143

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

✂ ✂ ✂

+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Mrs. Rose

Humble Lord, You surrendered the riches of heaven's palace
for the poverty of Bethlehem's manger.

**As we offer You our gifts in thanksgiving for Your gift,
make us imitators of Your generosity and love,
for the sake of the world You love so much,
and for your Father's glory. Amen.**

PIANO OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY

GREENSLEEVES

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.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe the Son of Mary. Amen.

✂ ✂ ✂

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-14

Dr. Bazemore

In Pew Bible, page 234 of New Testament

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Three Reminders for the New Year

Dr. Bazemore

✠ ✠ ✠

INVITATION

+HYMN OF RESPONSE

O Christ the Same
See Insert

LONDONDARY AIR

+BENEDICTION

Dr. Bazemore

PIANO POSTLUDE

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

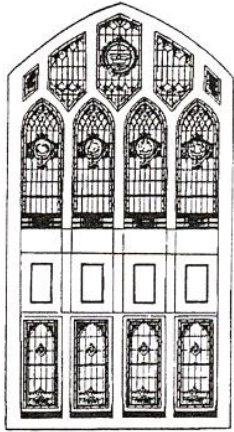
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Anita D. Thompson
Associate Pastor

Dr. Dennis Bazemore
Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Leah Newsome
Pianist



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 31, 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✠ Worship Notes

♦ Today is the 7th Day of Christmas, but it's also New Year's Eve. Therefore, our worship service has been woven with those two threads today. Let us continue to give thanks to God for the gift of the Christ, and pray for God's leadership in the new year.

Next Sunday, January 7, 2024, there will also be two threads woven into our worship service: Deacon Ordination and Epiphany.

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

Ages 1 & 2: Jenni Byrd & Nancy Freeman

Ages 3 & 4: Jamie Burns & Betty Cooper

Kindergarten: Bill & Debbie Magette

✠ WMU Churchwide Mission Project

FBCA is collecting the following items for the three assisted living/rehab centers in our association through the end of February:

- Toothpaste • Tissues • Body Wash • After Shave • Lotion • Cologne/Perfume
- Hand Soap • Mouthwash • Paper Towels • Band-Aids • Clothes • Dawn Dish Soap
- Clothes Detergent • Bath Towels, Hand Towels, Bath Cloths (white only)
- Decorations (for doors & rooms) • Cleaning Supplies (bleach, Lysol, Windex, Clorox wipes)
- Drinks (apple/grape juice, Gatorade, ginger ale, etc.)
- Individually Wrapped Snacks (chips, cakes, cookies, chocolates, soft mints, please include sugar free options)

✠ 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.

✠ Women's Bible Study Resumes

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

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

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

✘ Global Missions Offering of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

We will continue to receive this offering through March. 100% of your gifts to the Global Missions Offering support the long-term presence of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries serving around the world.

✘ 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.

✘ Wednesday Night Activities & Rehearsals

... will resume on January 10, 2024.

✘ This Week's Calendar

Today, December 31, 2023

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

No afternoon or evening activities.

Monday, January 1, 2024

Church offices closed for New Year's holiday.

Wednesday, January 3

10:30 AM Ahoskie Garden Club

No afternoon or evening activities.

Friday, January 5

8:30 AM Christian Women's Job Corps, *The Gathering Place*

Sunday, January 7, 2024

9:45 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship

12:30 PM Luncheon for New Deacons & Family

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