



The Worship of God ✦ January 7, 2024  
Epiphany Sunday ✦ Deacon Ordination and Installation

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

January 7, 2024 ✠ 11:00 AM

✠ *The Season of the Church Year: Epiphany Sunday*

*Ordination & Installation of Deacons*

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS

Rev. Anita Thompson

PIANO PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE

Miss Adalyn Britt, Mr. Corbett Britton, and Miss Peyton Outlaw, Acolytes

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON      Isaiah 9:2 and 60:1

Dr. Lyndsay Britt

In Pew Bible, page 780 and 844 of Old Testament

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

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Mrs. Sarah Grace Britton

+HYMN OF PRAISE 129

*Jesus, the Light of the World*

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

✠ ✠ ✠

CHILDREN'S TIME AND BLESSING

Rev. 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.**

+HYMN 150

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

+LITANY FOR THE OFFERING

Mrs. Victoria Outlaw

As we worship God with our offerings, this is our prayer:

God of light and promise,

we bring our gifts to further Your work in a world filled with darkness.

**May they bring Your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness.**

Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves.

**Let them shine brightly, drawing all to Your light and love.**

**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

## +OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Hymn 156

*Shine, Jesus, Shine* – Stanza 1

SHINE

Lord, the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world shine upon us, set us free by the truth You now bring us;  
Shine on me, shine on me.  
Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.



## ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF DEACONS

Mr. Heath Britt, Mr. Alex Britton and Mr. Brian Outlaw  
Mrs. Claire Presley and Mrs. Penny Rose

Charge to Deacons

Dr. Dennis Bazemore

On this special day, standing before God and this congregation, do you confess anew Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and acknowledge Him as the Head of the Church?

**I do.**

You have been duly elected and affirmed to the high office of deacon by this congregation, your church family, to serve Christ and this church. Do you commit yourself to the ministries of this church, faithfully promoting peace, unity, and the ongoing mission of First Baptist Church?

**With God's help, I do.**

Will you be one who prays daily, who reads and meditates on God's Holy Word? Will you be faithful in church attendance and be a good steward as well as a good example towards others with your time, your talents, and your offerings to carry out God's work through First Baptist Church?

**With God's help, I will.**

Being a member of the elected Deacons, serving alongside the church staff and the pastor, helps in so many ways to fulfill the tasks of leading the mission of the church. Will you be one who is supportive, cooperative, and caring as a member of this larger ministry team?

**With God's help, I will.**

Will you seek to work in a spirit of Christian harmony, love, and fellowship, and find ways for the spiritual climate and fellowship of First Baptist Church to be protected and grow?

**With God's help, I will.**

I, therefore, charge you to set the goal for your life and your deacon ministry the high standards for servant leadership defined in God's Holy Word, Acts 6 and 1 Timothy 3. You cannot fill this responsibility on your own strength and wisdom; I, therefore, charge you to seek the wisdom of God, rely on the Holy Spirit, read the Bible, spend time in prayer, and live by the teachings of Jesus Christ. May God richly bless you; may He guide you and our church.

Charge to Church

Rev. Thompson

Do you, the members of First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, receive Heath, Alex, Brian, Claire and Penny as deacons within the shared ministry of Christ's mission, and do you covenant to encourage and support them in the fulfillment of their responsibilities?

Reaffirming our faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, we gladly receive Heath, Alex, Brian, Claire, and Penny as servant leaders in our church life together.

We covenant to support them with our prayers, encouragement, and respect. We celebrate, with thanksgiving, the shared responsibilities for Christ's ministry which is ours as the church. Praise be to God.

Laying on of Hands

✠ ✠ ✠

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 6:1-7

Dr. Bazemore

In Pew Bible, page 150 of New Testament

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

SERMON

*The Ministry of Servant Leaders*

Dr. Bazemore

✠ ✠ ✠

INVITATION

+HYMN OF RESPONSE 477 *We Are Called to Be God's People*

AUSTRIAN HYMN

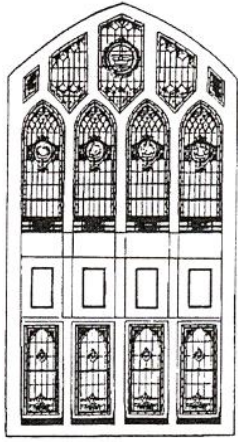
+BENEDICTION

Dr. Bazemore

RECESSIONAL OF THE LIGHT

PIANO POSTLUDE

+Those who are able are invited to stand.



# A Window on the Weeks Ahead

January 7, 2024

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

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## ✠ Worship Notes

♦ Today we observe Epiphany Sunday and ordain and install new deacons for ministry service in 2024 through 2026. 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.

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

Ages 1 & 2: Karen Daly and Lisa Outlaw

Ages 3 & 4: Brian and Victoria Outlaw

Kindergarten: Landis and Will Chamblee

## ✠ Wednesday Night Activities & Rehearsals Resume | January 10, 2024

### ✠ Wednesday Night Meal Resumes | January 10, 2024

We are beginning a new standing reservation list for 2024. To make your reservation...

- ♦ Sign up on the bulletin board in the second-floor hallway, or
- ♦ Respond to the Facebook post, or
- ♦ Call the church office.

Include the total number of adults and children, and specify if your reservation is standing or weekly. Reservations and cancellations are due by noon on Tuesday. Hospitality Committee members, please remember to make your reservations.

Menu for January 10: Vegetable beef soup, grilled cheese, brownies, and tea or water.

Meal Costs: Adults \$8 Children (12 and under) \$4

### ✠ Women's Bible Study Resumes

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

### ✠ Christian Women's Job Corps Needs

As you're cleaning out, please consider donating your used household items to our ministry: baking dishes, pots, pans, TV's, furniture, etc.

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

If you would like to participate in the cook-off, please contact the church office.

## ✠ 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)

## ✠ 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.

## ✠ This Week

### ♦ Monday, January 8, 2024

3:00 PM Staff Meeting

5:45 PM Girl Scouts, Jenni Byrd, Leader

### ♦ Tuesday, January 9

10:00 AM Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Groups 2 & 4

### ♦ Wednesday, January 10

5:15 PM •Children's Music & Missions

•Prayer Meeting/Bible Study for Adults & Youth (Grades 6-12)

6:15 PM Supper

7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

### ♦ Thursday, January 11

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

### ♦ Friday, January 12

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