



**The Worship of God ✠ December 15, 2024
The Third Sunday of Advent**

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 15, 2024 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS Dr. Greg Barmer

CHIMING OF THE HOUR Mr. Jordan Martin

PRELUDE *Joy to the World* Mrs. Leah Newsome

INVOCATION Dr. Dennis Bazemore

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

LIGHTING OF THE JOY CANDLE

Mr. Brent, Mrs. Kari, Mr. Henry, Mr. Bennet & Miss Lucy
Pierce Family

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. We have already lit the candles of Hope and Peace.

Today they shine again to remind us that Christ was born first in Bethlehem but is coming again to keep all God's promises.

The third candle is the candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, she was filled with joy. Jesus brought a new sense of joy to the world, and even today, with our faith in Jesus, we are given supernatural hope, peace, and joy.

Thank you, Lord, for the joy you bring us. While we wait for your coming, may it make us stronger. May your joy, your peace, and your hope shine through all our worship, through all our words, and through all our deeds. Amen.

THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS, Hymn 80 BOUGH

Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love
Stanzas 1, 2, and 3

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING Dr. Bazemore

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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 1:18-25 Ms. Vicky Overman

In Pew Bible, pages 1 & 2 of New Testament

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

Thanks be to God.

+HYMN 125 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ms. Overman

PIANO OFFERTORY

Carol of the Bells

Dr. Barmer

+ADVENT DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him, above, ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. Amen.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Dr. Bazemore

In Pew Bible, page 846 of Old Testament

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

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The First Noel

arr. Forrest

Jordan Martin, Cheryl Slachta, Jim Wiggins



SERMON

A Light at the End of the Tunnel

Dr. Bazemore

INVITATION

It is our tradition to offer a time of response near the end of worship. A response may take the shape of a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and desire to be baptized, a request for church membership, or the sharing of a prayer concern or praise which may be communicated with the congregation or safely kept between the sharer and minister. Please respond as you feel led during the Hymn of Response.

+HYMN 122

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

IN DULCI JUBILO

+BENEDICTION

Go forth from this service of worship and be a people of joy.

Let joy live in our hearts and may we share the joy of Christ with all we meet.

Share the joy by seeing the good in each other.

We will share the joy as we remember what Christ has done for us.

Share the joy by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share this joy of Christ.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creation, share the joy, the peace, and hope of Christmas with those you meet along your journey. In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.

+CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

As we leave, let us remember that we do not leave the church. We leave as the church to go into the world and make disciples . . . in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Mrs. Newsome

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

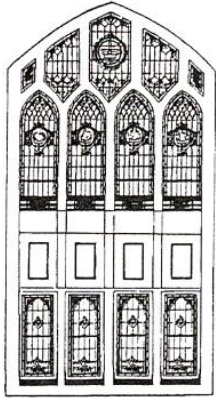
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Dr. Dennis N. Bazemore
Interim Pastor

Dr. Greg Barmer
Interim Minister of Music

Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Leah Newsome
Pianist



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 15, 2024

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✦ Worship Notes

◆ **Worship Childcare** – We give thanks for those caring for our young ones today while we worship:

Ages 1 & 2: Nancy Perry & Mary Page Pierce

Ages 3 & 4: Claire & Jordan Harrell

Kindergarten: Alex & Sarah Grace Britton

✦ Alleluia: A Christmas Festival | Tonight | 5:00 PM

Accompanied by an Orchestra of ECU Music Students

Following our Christmas Concert, we will continue our tradition of sharing your favorite Christmas cookies and treats as sweet additions to our reception in Fellowship Hall.

✦ Global Missions Offering Ingathering

We are receiving 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. This year's goal is \$5,000 and will be collected through the end of March 2025.

✦ Operation Inasmuch Christmas Day Lunch

December 25, 2024 | The Gathering Place | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

We are once again pleased to partner with other area churches to provide a free, delicious, hot meal, and fellowship for anyone in our community. The remaining responsibility of FBCA includes preparing a roaster pan size of dressing, please sign up on the bulletin board on the 2nd floor hallway.

All food items are to be at The Gathering Place by 10:00 on Christmas Day. If items need to be delivered prior to that day, or if you'd like to assist with set up, serving, or delivery of meals to the homebound, please contact Pat Byrd at (252) 209-4301.

✦ Churchwide Christmas Breakfast | No Reservations Required

Sunday, December 22, 2024 | Fellowship Hall | 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Please join us for a Christmas breakfast: Scrambled Eggs, Bacon and Sausage, Southern Style Creamy Grits, Hot Biscuits and Sweet Rolls, Assorted Fruit, Juice, Coffee, and Water.

✦ Young Adult Sunday School Class Angel Tree Christmas Project

Our Angel Tree is located on the first floor. When you take an Angel from the tree sign your name and info beside the corresponding number. Prepare to spend a minimum of \$25 on the gifts and remember it is fine to join with someone. Please WRAP and TAG EACH GIFT with the corresponding number! Return gifts to the base of the Angel Tree by December 18th for delivery.

✠ Offering Envelopes

As we prepare for the new year, we ask that if you're no longer using the offering envelopes that are mailed to you, please contact our Financial Secretary, Sharon Hill. She is available Monday-Wednesday 8:00- 4:00 PM at the office (252) 332-4003.

✠ Thank You Coggin Family

We would like to offer our thanks to the Alice Coggin family for their generous donation of their portion of the Annex Building. We now own the Annex Building in its entirety. Alice Coggin loved our church and church family. We are so grateful for this gift.

✠ Deacon Confirmation & 2025 Proposed Budget Vote

On December 8, 2024, the nominated deacons were confirmed by the congregation: Ann Cooke, Debbie Magette, Scott Outlaw, Kari Pierce, and Andy Woodard. In addition, the congregation voted to approve the proposed 2025 budget. Thank you all for your good work in completing this annual process.

✠ Deacon Ordination & Installation

Sunday, January 12, 2025 | Sanctuary | 11:00 AM

During the 11:00 AM worship service on January 12, 2025, Ann Cooke will be ordained. Debbie Magette, Scott Outlaw, Kari Pierce, and Andy Woodard, previously ordained, will be installed along with Ann Cooke.

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