



**The Worship of God ✦ December 22, 2024  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

312 West Main Street ♦ 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 22, 2024 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS Dr. Greg Barmer

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Mr. Jordon Martin

INVOCATION Dr. Dennis Bazemore

+HYMN OF PRAISE 132 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* CAROL

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE

Mr. Josh, Mrs. Jessica, Miss Lily Ann & Mr. Bryant  
Brinkley Family

Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. We have already lit the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.

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

The fourth candle is the candle of Love. God's love is perfect. He holds nothing back. He always welcomes us and gives us everything we need to live a life of Godly love. We light the candle of Love to tell the whole world that Jesus is the only real source of love.

*Thank you Lord for the love you bring us. While we wait for your coming, may it make us stronger. May your hope, your peace, your joy, and your love 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*

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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.**

ANTHEM *Glory, Let There Be Peace* arr. Wise  
*Chairo*



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Micah 5:2-5 Dr. Barmer  
In Pew Bible, page 1059 of Old Testament

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

+HYMN 144 *Oh, Come, Little Children* SCHULZ

OFFERTORY PRAYER Mrs. Jamie Burns

PIANO OFFERTORY *See Amid the Winter's Snow* Mr. Martin

+ADVENT DOXOLOGY GLORIA  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

ANTHEM *Sing Noel* arr. Hamilton  
*Christmas Choir*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 3:16 Mrs. Burns  
In Pew Bible, page 114 of New Testament

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



SERMON *The Christmas Gift of Love* 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 110 *Away in a Manger* MUELLER

+BENEDICTION

+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

*Festive Postlude on “Hyfrydol”*

Mr. Martin

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

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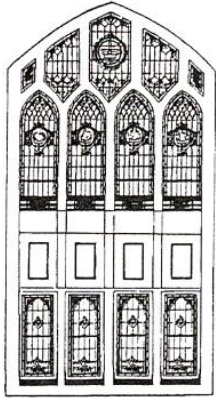
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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 22, 2024

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

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## ✘ Worship Notes

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

Ages 1 & 2: Georgia Copeland & Debbie Greene

Ages 3 & 4: Will Blanchard & Michelle Boyd

Kindergarten: Sarah Jenkins & Henry Pierce

## ✘ Church Building Holiday Hours

December 24, 2024: Closing at 12:00 PM

December 25-27, 2024: Closed

January 1, 2025: Closed

## ✘ 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. All FBCA responsibilities have been filled. Thank you! All food items are to be at The Gathering Place by 10:00 AM 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.*

## ✘ Newsletters

*We will not issue newsletters on December 25, 2024 or January 1, 2025.*

## ✘ 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 AM - 4:00 PM at the office (252) 332-4003.*

## ✘ 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.*

## ✘ Food Pantry Volunteers

*The Pantry desperately needs volunteers on the third or fourth Friday of the month from 9:30 AM to noon. A volunteer may choose to work one Friday every month, every other month or once a quarter – always with another volunteer. If you are willing to offer two and a half hours of your time on a Friday to be Christ's Hands and Feet at the Pantry, please contact Vicky Overman at (252) 396-5729 to discuss which Friday is best for you.*

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