



**The Worship of God ✦ December 7, 2025
The Second 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 7, 2025 ✠ 11:00 AM

The Season of the Church Year: The Second Sunday of Advent

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS Dr. Dennis Bazemore

CHIMING OF THE HOUR Mr. Jordan Martin

PIANO PRELUDE *Still, Still, Still* arr. Lloyd Larson
Mr. Martin & Mrs. Leah Newsome
Piano Duet

INVOCATION Mrs. Penny Rose

+HYMN OF PRAISE 103 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE Mr. Bryant & Mrs. Ann Cooke
Mr. Bracy & Mr. Graham Lawrence

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Peace. Last week we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath, the candle of Hope.

Today it shines again to remind us that Christ was born first in Bethlehem, but will come again to fulfill all of God's promises.

The second cable is the candle of Peace. Jesus said that those who make peace would be called the children of God

We are His children. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and we say to all the world that He is our only hope for peace.

True peace is like a light shining in a dark place, and Jesus wants us to be His light in the world.

Thank you, Lord, for the peace you bring us. While we wait for your coming, may it make us stronger. May 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 BAUGH
Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love
Stanza 2

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 3:1-12 Dr. Greg Barmer
In Pew Bible, page 3 of New Testament

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

ANTHEM *Advent Prayer* Allen Pote
"Come, Holy Jesus. Come to free us from our sin. Come, Holy Jesus, and make us pure within.
Inspire each heart with illumined surprise, enkindle a flame anew.
Increase our faith and strengthen our lives. Show us the joy of living life in You."

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dr. Barmer

OFFERTORY

Coventry Carol
Mr. Martin & Mrs. Newsome
Piano Duet

arr. Cindy Berry

+ADVENT DOXOLOGY

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

+OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Dr. Bazemore

In Pew Bible, pages 656 & 657 of Old Testament

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

+HYMN 85

Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming

PLEADING SAVIOR

SERMON

Semper Paratus

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 107

ST. LOUIS

O Little Town of Bethlehem



+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

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Mr. Martin & Mrs. Newsome
Piano Duet

CMD

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

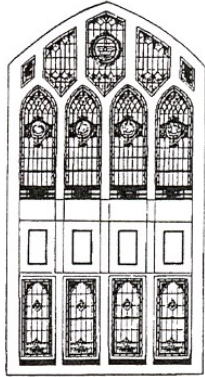
Dr. Dennis N. Bazemore
Interim Pastor

Dr. Greg Barmer
Interim Minister of Music

Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Leah Newsome
Pianist

Mr. Jordan Martin
Organist



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 7, 2025

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✘ Worship Notes

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

Crib: Sylvia Britt & Winnie Matthews

Ages 1 & 2: Bland & Nancy Baker & Lily Ann Brinkley

Pre-K & K: Lisa, Victoria & Peyton Outlaw

✘ **2026 Church Ministry Budget Vote** | Today | Beginning of Worship Service

✘ **Benevolence Ministry Offering Received Today**

✘ **Operation Inasmuch Christmas Day Lunch**

December 25, 2025 | 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 responsibilities of FBCA have been fulfilled. Thank you for all of your help. 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.

✘ **2026 Confirmation of Deacon Nominees** | December 14, 2025

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, resident church members nominated persons to serve as deacons for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2026. The top five nominees are:

Nancy Freeman Stuart Pierce Walt Pierce L. Taylor Rose Brandon Zoch

On Sunday, December 14, 2025, members will have the opportunity to confirm these nominees.

✘ **Muffins for Missions, Youth Fundraiser** | Sunday, December 14 | 9:15 - 9:45 AM

Join us in the Fellowship Hall from 9:15–9:45 AM for Muffins for Missions! Enjoy a cup of coffee and a muffin while supporting our youth.

✘ **Churchwide Breakfast**

December 21, 2025 | 9:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

No reservations required

Please join us for our churchwide breakfast! The menu includes Eggs, Grits, Breakfast meat, Sweet Rolls and Muffins, Fruit, Juice and Coffee.

❖ **Christ is Born! - A Festival of Christmas Music**
December 14, 2025 | 6:00 PM | Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

❖ **Angel Tree Christmas Project**

All Angels have been claimed. If you have any questions about your Angel, please call Ahsoskie Health & Rehab (252) 332-2126 and ask for Carolyn or Nicole. When you call, please have your Christmas Angel Code ready as you cannot be helped without a code. All gifts for Angels are to be wrapped with the Angel Tag securely attached to the gift. This is the only way to identify whom the gift belongs to and return under the tree by December 14 for delivery. May God bless you and those who receive!

❖ **Gathering Place Donations Needed**

If you have gently used coats, jackets, warm hats or gloves that you can donate to us at The Gathering Place. This can be for women, men, and children. You can drop them off at The Gathering Place Ahsoskie between 9:30 AM to 12 PM. We will also pick them up if you call Pat Byrd at 209-4301. Thank you and God Bless you.