



The Worship of God ✠ December 14, 2025
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 14, 2025 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS Dr. Dennis Bazemore

CHIMING OF THE HOUR Mr. Jordan Martin

PRELUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Jeffrey Blersch

INVOCATION Dr. Greg Barner

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

LIGHTING OF THE JOY CANDLE

Mr. Will, Mrs. Ashlyn & Miss Avalyn Blanchard

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

Stanza 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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:1-4, 10 Dr. Barner

In Pew Bible, pages 780 & 781 of Old 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 Dr. Barner

PIANO OFFERTORY Mr. Martin

+ADVENT DOXOLOGY

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

+NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 2:8-20

Dr. Bazemore

In Pew Bible, page 71 of New 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

Good News Causes Great Joy!

Dr. Bazemore

INVITATION

+HYMN 122

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

IN DULCI JUBILO

+BENEDICTION

Go forth from this service of Advent worship and to be even more a people filled with great joy.

May this great joy live in our hearts and may we share this joy of Christ with all we meet.

Share this joy by seeing the good in each other.

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

Share this joy by serving others and praying for our world.

In this Advent season, O Lord, we need to receive again this great joy in celebrating the birth of Christ.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creation, share this great joy, and the peace, and the hope of Christmas with all those you meet along your journey. In the name of the Christ-Child, our Savior. 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

On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing

SUSSEX CAROL

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

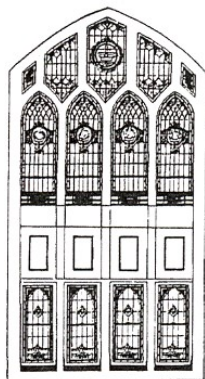
Dr. Dennis N. Bazemore
Interim Pastor

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 14, 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 Confirmation of Deacon Nominees | Today

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

Today, members will have the opportunity to confirm these nominees.

✘ Angel Tree Christmas Project | Due Today

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 this afternoon. May God bless you and those who receive!

✘ Global Missions Offering Ingathering | Today through March 2026

Today, we will begin to receive 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 \$9,000 and will be collected through the end of March 2026.

✘ Christ is Born! - A Festival of Christmas Music

Today | 6:00 PM | Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

✘ 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.

✘ From the Deacons

On Sunday, December 7, 2025, the congregation was informed that a comment box is available in the second-floor hallway, through January 14, 2026. You're encouraged to utilize the comment box to share your thoughts regarding the next steps addressing our church staffing needs. Please continue to keep our congregation in your prayers.

❖ **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.

❖ **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 Ahoskie 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.