



The Worship of God ✠ December 21, 2025
The Fourth 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 21, 2025 ✠ 11:00 AM

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

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS Dr. Dennis Bazemore

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose, E'er Blooming* arr. Joel Raney
Mr. Jordan Martin & Mrs. Leah Newsome
Piano Duet

INVOCATION Dr. Bazemore

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

LIGHTING OF THE LOVE CANDLE The Chamblee Family
Mr. Will, Mrs. Landis, Mr. Mac & Miss Helen

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
Stanza 4

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 to God in the Highest* arr. Fettle
Christmas Choir

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Micah 5:2-5 Dr. Bazemore
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. Claire Presley

OFFERTORY Mr. Martin

+ADVENT DOXOLOGY GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

ANTHEM *Sing Noel* arr. Hamilton
Christmas Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 2:1-7 Dr. Greg Barmer
In Pew Bible, page 71 of New Testament
This is the word of God for the people of God;
Thanks be to God.



SERMON *Love Gives* 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 *People, Look East* Mrs. Newsome

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

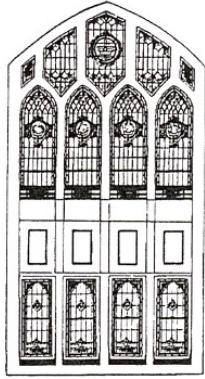
Dr. Dennis N. Bazemore
Interim Pastor

Dr. Greg Barmer
Interim Minister of Music

Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Leah Newsome
Pianist

Mr. Jordan Martin
Organist



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

December 21, 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: Bill & Debbie Magette

Ages 1 & 2: Pat Daniels & Roxie Thompson

Pre-K & K: David, Elizabeth & Pace Davis

✘ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | December 24, 2025 | 5:00 PM**

✘ **Church Building Holiday Hours**

December 25-26, 2025: Closed

January 1, 2026: Closed

✘ **Deacon Leadership 2026**

On Sunday, December 14, 2025, resident church members confirmed the nominated persons to serve as deacons for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2026. The 5 newly elected Deacons are Nancy Freeman, Stuart Pierce, Walt Pierce, L. Taylor Rose and Brandon Zoch.

Chair: Nancy Freeman

Vice Chair: Walt Pierce

Secretary: Kari Pierce

The 5 rotating off are Josh Brinkley, Jamie Burns, Austine Evans, Betty Joyner and Jim Wiggins. Thank you all for your service to the church.

✘ **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.

✘ **Global Missions Offering Ingathering | March 2026**

We will receive the annual Global Missions Offering through March 2026. 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.

✘ **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.

✘ **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.