

First Baptist Church

Sunday, December 21

Bible Study, 9:45am ~ Worship, 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

a service of candlelight, communion, and carols

December 24, 5:00 pm

Regular Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning

Bible Study Classes for all ages: 9:45am

Worship: 11:00 am

Sunday Afternoon

Youth Fellowship and Bible Study

Wednesday Evening

Family Dinner

Children's Choirs

Adult Bible Study

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

312 West Main St

Ahoskie, NC 27910

Church Office, (252) 332-4003

www.fbcaboskie.org

Christ
is
Born!

A Festival of Christmas Music
December 14, 2025 | 6:00 pm

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie
312 W. Main St. Ahoskie NC, 27910

CHRIST IS BORN

December 14, 2025

Prelude

JOY TO THE WORLD
arranged by John Turner
Jordan Martin and Leah Newsome, pianists

SCRIPTURE NARRATION

Isaiah 4:14; Luke 1:26, 30-33

Austine Evans

SON OF GOD

Michael W. Smith, arranged by David Hamilton

Christmas Choir
Jordan Martin, soloist

This excerpt from Michael W. Smith's album, *It's a Wonderful Christmas*, reminds us that Jesus Christ is Himself the fulfillment of ancient Hebrew prophecy. *Son of God* describes the glory of God's promise to His people fulfilled in Christ and the power of God's perfect plan to rescue us from despair. We sing "Gloria, Alleluia, God is with us!"

*Son of God, purest light, Lord on high is here tonight.
Stepping through this sacred sky, suddenly, our eyes behold
heaven's perfect plan unfold.*

*Son of God, love divine, timeless One steps into time.
Who could dream of such a thing, with us now, the King of kings?
Men and angels bow and sing, alleluia, alleluia, Gloria, alleluia!"*

Greetings and Prayer of Praise

Hymn 103

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

SCRIPTURE NARRATION

John 1:14; Luke 2:12-14

Austine Evans

SING NOEL

Michael W. Smith, arranged by David Hamilton

Christmas Choir

The music of Michael W. Smith's Christmas album continues in *Sing Noel*. This regal setting appropriately recreates the grandeur and splendor of the Good News as Christ's coming is proclaimed to the world.

*Sing Noel! Sing we all Noel! Come behold this Child in the manger,
gift of the Father's great love.*

Angels look down as His glory surrounds them, starlight from heaven above.

*Lift up your heads all who wander in darkness, shine for your light has come.
Down through the ages, though sin's battle rages, Christ, our Messiah, has won.*

*Let every daughter and son of the Father rise on this Christmas morn.
With heaven voicing all praise and rejoicing, Christ, our Redeemer is born.
Sing Noel, sing Hallelujah! Lift high His praises, Christ come to save us all.*

JOY TO THE WORLD

arranged by Robert Sterling

Instrumental Ensemble

An energetic, syncopated march and a sturdy brass statement of the tune characterize this classic 1848 tune by Lowell Mason.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king!

SING WE NOW OF CHRISTMAS

arranged by Gordon Young

Jordan Martin, organist

This theme and variations approach to the French carol fluctuates between varied tonalities; melody in the left hand, right hand, and pedal; a melody line canon; full organ; and toccata-like treatments.

*Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here!
Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.*

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

arranged by C. Kirkland and T. Fettle

Christmas Choir

Prolific composer Daryl Williams has over 900 songs recorded by Larnell Harris, the Gaither Vocal Band, The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir, and others. This energetic Southern Gospel setting of Scripture features our men's section.

*"Look up, fear not", the angel said.
Behold, Messiah's come, the one of whom you've read.
And as He spoke to men that day,
The Heavenly hosts around the throne joined in to say:*

*Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will to men.
Heavenly angels announce His arrival in the little town of Bethlehem.
Hallelujah to the Lord, sing hohy; He was born to save the world from sin.
Glory to God in the highest,
Glory hallelujah to the Lord, Amen!*

SCRIPTURE NARRATION

Austine Evans

Matthew 1:20-21; Luke 2:4-7

THE FIRST NOEL

arranged by Dan Forrest

Jordan Martin, Cheryl Slachta, Jim Wiggins

This well-loved carol has survived and flourished since its humble beginnings in what we know today as Miracle Plays of the 13th and 14th centuries. After being transcribed and "modernized" it became a vehicle on the streets of Europe to herald the Good News of Christ's coming. Its popularity today is a testament to the ageless Truth that Jesus is always present and desiring to fellowship with those who seek Him.

The word, "Noel," has evolved from Latin and French and is simply a joyful exclamation of the birth of Christ - a sacred expression of "Merry Christmas," so to speak.

*Noel! Noel!
The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel! Noel!*

DING DONG MERRILY ON HIGH

arranged by Carolyn Jennings

Christmas Choir

This well-known carol began as a 16th century dance tune, and in 1924 George Ratcliffe added lyrics inspired by the sound of church bells. Like many of our favorite Christmas songs, the lyrics beautifully pair the ancient and modern expressions of the joy of Christ's birth.

*Ding dong, merrily on high! In heaven the bells are ringing;
Ding dong, verily the sky is riven with angels singing.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis! Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!*

ADORATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

arranged by Camp Kirkland

Instrumental Ensemble

Opening with a rich brass choir statement of "Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness" this setting progresses into a rhythmic development of "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
Bow down before Him, His glory proclaim.
With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore Him, the Lord is His name."*

BABY JESUS, BORN TODAY

IsaBeall Hudson

Preschool Choir

*See Him lying in the hay, baby Jesus born today!
Ring the bells, let them sound all around*

SLEEP, BABY JESUS

Jeremy Russell

Preschool Choir

*Lullaby, lullaby, sleep, baby Jesus.
Joseph is watching all through the night,
Mary is singing her lullaby.
Lullaby, lullaby, sleep, baby Jesus.*

Hymn of Celebration

O Holy Night
Adolphe Adam

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
it is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.*

*A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!*

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
and in His name all oppression shall cease.*

*Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
let all within us praise His holy name.*

*Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!
O night divine, O night divine!*

CHRIST IS BORN

Giacomo Puccini

Words by Steve Amerson, Arranged by Cliff Duren

Christmas Choir

New lyrics are set to one of the world's most beautifully crafted operatic tunes, *Nessun Dorma*, from Puccini's *Turandot*, to create a magnificent proclamation of the Christ Child's birth.

*Lord, most holy, Lord most holy.
We worship and adore You, O holy Child of heaven.
O God incarnate, One with the Holy Spirit and with the Father.
We lift our songs of praise to Thee!
Redeeming love has set us free!
Christ has been victorious over sin, and He will reign eternally.
Christ is born! Christ is born! Christ is born!*

CANTIQUE DE NOEL

SOME CHILDREN SEE HIM

arranged by Jay Rouse

Christmas Choir

Written in 1951 by Alfred Burt as part of the family tradition of writing a poem for their yearly Christmas card, the collection was soon set to music and known as the "Alfred Burt Carols." These particular lyrics paint a tender picture of the kingdom of heaven where each child imagines Jesus as part of their own culture: lily white, almond eyed, bronzed and brown with dark and heavy hair.

*Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night.
Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.
Some children see Him bronzed and brown, the Lord of heav'n to earth come down.
Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.*

*Some children see Him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside.
some children see Him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue.
Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.
Some children see Him dark as they, and, ah! they love Him, too!*

*The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus' face
like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.
O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering,
Come worship now the infant King.
'Tis love that's born tonight!*

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

adapted from Psalm 95

*Make a joyful noise! Make a joyful noise!
Come, and adore Christ, the Lord, born in Bethlehem. Make a joyful noise!*

3rd - 5th Grade Choir

KLING, GLÖCKCHEN, KLING-A-LING-A-LING

arranged by Michael Burkhardt

3rd - 5th Grade Choir

This spritely little German carol mimics the sound of ringing Christmas bells. The children sing the verses in English and refrain in German, translated as "Ring, little bell, ring-a-ling-a-ling." They accompany themselves with Orff instruments.

*Kling, Glöckchen, Kling-a-ling-a-ling. Kling, Glöckchen, Kling.
In the cold of winter, dear ones, let us enter. Swing the door wide open in this bitter weather.
Mary, mother lovely, Son of God, most holy; with great joy we meet You, with our treasures greet You!*

WITH MY VOICE

Carol H. Dickerson

Preschool Choir

With my voice I sing Your praise; You are holy, holy, holy God.

With my voice I pray to You; You are holy, holy, holy God.

With my voice I share your love; You are holy, holy, holy God.

ADORE

Graham Kendrick and Martin Chalk

Chairo

Graham Kendrick is a British songwriter and worship leader whose writings include numerous well-known songs such as “Shine, Jesus, Shine” included in our hymnal here are First Baptist.

You stepped down from heaven, humbly You came;

God of all creation, here with us.

In a starlit manger, Emmanuel,

Light of the world, here to save.

Adore, come let us adore.

Oh come let us adore Him;

The Lord, worship Christ the Lord,

Let all that is within us adore.

SCRIPTURES FROM MATTHEW 2

BEHOLD THAT STAR

Thomas Talley, arranged by Becky S. Mayo

1st - 2nd Grade Choir

Behold that star, behold that star up yonder, behold that star; It is the star of Bethlehem.

The star would lead to the place he lay, the baby Jesus on the hay.

The wise men long traveled from afar. They followed light fro that bright star.

The angels sang at the glorious sight to welcome Jesus born that night.

COME, LORD JESUS

HYFRYDOL, arranged by Jim Ailor

Combined 1st - 5th Grade Choirs

Come, Lord Jesus, come to dwell with us. How we need your presence near.

Come to guide us. Come to save us. Come, O come, we welcome you here.

Alleluia! God is with us. Alleluia, Emmanuel!

Angels are praising and shepherds are bowing. God is with us! Sing Noel!

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY



Greg Barmer, Interim Minister of Music

Jordan Martin, Organist

Leah Newsome, Pianist

Austine Evans, Narrator

The addition of our fine instrumentalists from the East Carolina University School of Music is made possible in part by the J. Robertson Music Committee Fund of First Baptist Church.



Our heartfelt thanks to Chowan University for the loan of timpani for this evening's concert.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev Dr. Dennis Bazemore, Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Greg Barmer, Interim Minister of Music

Mr. Jordan Martin, Organist

Mrs. Leah Newsome, Pianist

Please join us for a reception downstairs in the Fellowship Hall following the service this evening.