

THE
SHEPHERD'S
COTE

A NON-DENOMINATIONAL, WEEKLY
DEVOTION, WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL
RESOURCE FOR CHURCHES MINISTERING
TO THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED.
THIS IS A FREE SERVICE OF THE
COVENANT CHAPEL AT THE J. IVERSON
RIDDLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER
300 ENOLA ROAD, MORGANTON, NC 28655

ORDER OF SERVICE

COVENANT CENTER CHAPEL SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF *January 13, 2008*

(The congregation is asked to participate in all underlined responses and all hymns.)

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“Lord our God, we have a need to be near You and to feel You near us. Let us feel Your presence in this time that we come to worship. As we sing, as we pray, as we listen to Your word --- let us feel that You are close by us. Amen”

SILENT PRAYER

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Chaplain: Did you come to worship God?

Congregation: Yes, we did!

Chaplain: Did you come to sing unto the Lord?

Congregation: Yes, we did!

Chaplain: Did you come to pray?

Congregation: Yes, we did!

Chaplain: Let us begin our service in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen!

HYMN: “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.”

READING OF THE PSALMS

PSALM 41

**“People who care for the poor are happy,
the Lord will help them when they have troubles.
He will help them and make them happy.
The Lord will help them when they are sick,
And He will heal them.
Praise the Lord.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,

We thank You for life and health and for the privilege of worshipping You during these moments. Sometimes, God, we are selfish and do not think about other people. Please take care of them just as You have been good to us.

We pray also that as we hear Your word today, we might understand it a little more. More than that, help us as we try to live it each day this week.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “Morning Has Broken”

Morning has broken like the first morning.
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing. Praise for the morning.
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

LITANY OF THANKS AND PRAISE

For the beauty of the earth -
Thank you, God
For the glory of the skies -
Thank you, God
For the love which all around us lies -
Thank you, God
For the wonder of each hour, the day, the night -
Thank you, God
For hills, trees, flowers -
Thank you, God
For sun, moon and stars of light -
Thank you, God
For the joy of human love -
Thank you, God
For friends on earth and friends above
Thank you, God

HYMN: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not.
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.
Great is Thy Faithfulness; Great is Thy faithfulness.
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15

“The father said to his workers, ‘Bring me the best robe, and put it on my child. Bring me a ring and put it on the finger. Then let’s have a party because my child is safe!’”

MESSAGE

I. “Be Careful of Your Wishes”

(The object lessons I have for today are rather easily obtained. First, I brought a cape that really belongs to my wife, Sue. Then there is a ridiculously large ring that I have created. Last of all I have a poster with a variety of party foods on it. There is another direction one could easily go with another set of object lessons. I thought about finding a brass lamp and emphasizing the prodigal son’s wishes that got him in trouble, the failure of the world’s answers to satisfy our deeper needs.)

One time Jesus told His friends a story about a man who had two sons. They had a big farm with a lot of farm hands and it was hard work. The youngest son got tired of the hard work and simply told his father that he wanted to take some money and go off on his own. It hurt his father’s feelings, but he did just that.

He got into a lot of trouble on his own and lost all his money. When he had nowhere else to go, the young man went home to ask his father for a job. But instead his father was so happy to see him (at this point select a volunteer, but the ‘robe on him/her, and the ring on their finger) that the father threw a big party. He had the son dressed in fancy clothes and had jewelry placed on him too. Then they brought out all sorts of fancy foods so that they could eat and enjoy the son’s company.

What Jesus was saying was that God is happy in the same way when we turn to Him.

HYMN: “I Am Thine, O Lord”

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,
And it told Thy love for me; but I long to rise
In the arms of faith and be closer drawn to The.
Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord
To the Cross where Thou hast died.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed Lord, to Thy precious bleeding side.”

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of All,

We are Yours, O God. You have made us and You have kept us. We come thanking you for the blessings tha You have given us over and over again. Help us also to be giving. Help us to see tht every day there are people around us that need our love and understanding.

We pray this prayer in the name of Him Who taught us this prayer that we pray together saying :

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Spoken by everyone)

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom,
The power, and glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

HYMN: Jesus Loves Me

Jesus Loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

THE BENEDICTION:

May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and give you peace this day and forevermore. Amen.

Congregation: Amen

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

CHAPLAIN: Go in peace; Serve the Lord

CONGREGATION: Thanks be to God

MUSICAL POSTLUDE