

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 7, 2007

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silent before Him.”

Hab. 2:20

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: “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and Mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

READING OF THE PSALMS

PSALM 29

“Praise the Lord, you heavenly beings; praise His glory and His power. Praise the Lord’s glorious name. The voice of the Lord is heard over the seas and through the woodlands.

It is His voice that causes the lightning to flash. It even makes the desert to shake. Everyone worshipping Him says, ‘Glory to God!’ He is the King forever, and He blesses His people with peace.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Power,

The times are in Your hands, the times of earth and the time of eternity. Bless us with the wisdom to use our days and hours wisely so that our lives will be pleasing to You.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: "Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children"

Praise Him, Praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;
Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.

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: "Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-22

"John the Baptist told the people, 'I baptize you with water, but a man is coming who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Jesus also came to John to be baptized. And as He was coming up out of the water, the heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove. Then a voice from heaven was heard that said, 'You are my own dear Son. I am very pleased with You.'"

MESSAGE

“A Wonderful Start”

(There are two objects which I am using for this sermonette, and they are so very different from one another they basically constitute two different points. First, I bring a calendar, and secondly I have gold stars enough for all my people to have one each ---- along with a drawing of a gold star that is large enough for all of them to see.)

Many of you know what baptism is; in fact some of you have been baptized. When we baptize a person in church, they go through a special worship service where we use water to show that the person has become a Christian.

The story from the Bible today is about when Jesus was baptized by a man named John the Baptist.

When we are baptized, it means that we are starting life over again. It does not matter what we have done or failed to do in the past, we are starting over fresh. That is why I brought a calendar with me today. This is the first Sunday of the year 2007; we are starting fresh. The calendar is clean. When God comes into our lives, we are able to start over fresh.

But something else happened to Jesus when He was baptized. He heard God say to Him, “You are my Son. I am very pleased with You.”

I remember when I was a child and in school, when I had done a very good job on something in school, the teacher would give me a gold star to show me how pleased she was with me. We all like to hear someone praise us for doing a good job. This was God’s way of giving a gold star to His Son Jesus.

Later when I come around to all of you, I want to give you a gold star to tell you what a wonderful person you are and what a good job you are doing.

But it is not just me that is proud of you. Every time you look at it, I want you to remember that God is also proud of you.

End with a prayer: “Thank You dear God for caring for us and being proud of us.”
Amen.

HYMN: “The Nail-scarred Hand”

Have you failed in your plan of your storm-tossed life?
Place your hand in the nail-scarred hand;
Are you weary and worn from its toil and strife?
Place your hand in the nail-scarred hand.
Place your hand in the nail scarred hand,
Place your hand in the nail scarred hand;
He will keep to the end, He’s your dearest friend,
Place your hand in the nail-scarred hand.

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of Love,

Help us to feel that You are close to us each day, so close that we could almost reach out and touch You. Help us to live our lives so that we can stay close to You, and that the way we treat others and the way we behave will show to the world how close we live to You. Thank You for Your blessings. We also ask that You take care of others who need Your help.

We pray this prayer in the name of Jesus 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 of Love make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love this day and all the days of your lives.

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