

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 *Easter Sunday, 2008*

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“Do not be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen, He is not here. See the place where he laid.”

Mark 16:6

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: “All Glory, Laud and Honor”

All glory, laud and honor, to Thee Redeemer King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.
Thou art the King of Israel, Thou David’s Royal Son,
Who in the Lord’s name cometh, the King and Blessed One.

**“Give thanks to the Lord, because He is good, and His love is eternal.
Open the doors of His temple and we will go in, and we will give thanks to God.
The stone which the builders would not have turned out to be the most
important stone of all. Let us be happy and celebrate.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father,

On this Easter Sunday morning, we rejoice for the eternal beauty and the everlasting power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Like the stone that was rolled away at His resurrection, may the stones of sin in our lives also be taken away by His glorious resurrection.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o’er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

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: “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20: 1-18

“Some ladies went to Jesus’ grave early Sunday morning. They did not find Jesus, but they found angels. They were upset because they did not know where Jesus was.

Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘Go tell my friends that I am coming to them.’”

Then the ladies ran to tell His friends what they had heard.”

MESSAGE

“IT WAS EMPTY”

(My prop for this sermon is an almost empty shoe box. The idea was to create the expectation among the congregation that it was empty. However, in the lid of the box is a picture of an angel.)

What in the world have I got here?

Can anyone guess?

(Hold up the shoe box and build the expectation that there may be something in it. After a period of taking suggestions, which ought to be shoes, open the box and show that it is apparently empty --- but hold the lid so that no one can see the picture of the angel.)

Look! What do you see in the box? Is it empty?

When Jesus’ women followers went to His grave, they thought that they were going to find His dead body there. But they were wrong! And they were totally surprised.

Instead of a dead body, they thought that they had found a grave. At first they did not know what to think, but they soon realized that Jesus was not there because He had risen from the dead. He was alive.

Actually, they were mistaken twice. One time they thought that they were going to find the dead body of Jesus --- but they did not. Another time they thought that they were going to find a completely empty tomb --- but (turn the lid so that they can see the angel hidden in it) they found an angel who told them that Christ was risen from the grave.

That is why on Easter Sunday we say, “The Lord is risen. The Lord is risen indeed.”

HYMN: “All Creatures of Our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
O praise ye! Alleluia!
O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam!
O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of Love,

Thank You for coming to be a part of our lives and showing us how to live in love.
Thank You that You loved the world so much that You gave Your all for us. Help us to love others more.

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:

Glory be to God Who has conquered even death,
Who has given us life eternal in Christ,
To Him belongs all glory and power forever and ever, 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