

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 *May 25, 2008*

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“Look in me, O God, and see my heart; test me and know what I am thinking; and see if there is anything bad about me. Then lead me in the way that is good.”

Psalm 139:23

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 Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

All hail the power of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.

READING OF THE PSALMS

PSALM 14

“Only foolish people say that there is no God. From heaven God can see if there are any wise people who worship Him. However, He sees many bad people. These people never pray. Evil people do bad things to good people, but the Lord will protect the good people. When that happens the good people will be very happy.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed God,

Thank You for creating this world that is so wonderful. But we also ask You to heal those who are sick and help those who have troubles. There is nothing which You can not do. Thank You for taking care of us.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “He Leadeth Me”

He leadeth me! O blessed tho’t!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
What-e’er I do, where-e’er I be,
Still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand, He leadeth me.
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

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: "I Love to Tell the Story"

I love to tell the story, Of unseen things above.
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, Because I know 'tis true.
It satisfies my longing as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story! T'will be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-8

"There is a voice of a man who calls out in the desert, "Make ready for the Lord. Make a road straight for Him."

MESSAGE

"Preparing for God"

(For today's message, I have been able to borrow a small gong. Any kind of instrument or equipment that can be used to get people's attention will do --- megaphone, siren. Just make certain that you can control it.)

I have brought with me today an object that not everyone knows. It is a gong. It sort of rings like a bell, but instead of swinging, it is struck by a striker. It can make a lot of noise. (Strike the gong, but not too obnoxiously.)

Back in Biblical days whenever a king was traveling, a person called a herald would go down the road a few days earlier with a gong. He would strike the gong to get everyone's attention, then he would tell them to clean up the road in front of their homes because the king would be going to come that way. The king wanted everything neat when he arrived.

In a sense John the Baptist was a herald. He was announcing that the king was coming. But he was not talking about a king who sits on a throne. He was talking about Jesus.

In another sense, you and I are heralds. We announce that Jesus is coming also. But the way we tell people about Jesus is not with a gong, but with the way we live our lives. When we are nice to other people, when we forgive them when they have been mean to us, when we are kind to them, it is like we have announced that Jesus is living in us and on His way.

End with a prayer: “Loving God, help us also to be blessings to others.” 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 lights of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of All,

We thank You for supplying our lives with all of our needs. When we look around with grateful hearts we see a beautiful world filled with blessings. We have enough to eat and we have shelter where to live.

But we also know, Lord our God, that there are others who are Your children as well who do not have a place to sleep or food to eat. We ask that you bless them as You have us..

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:

O God, bless us on this day of rest. Help us that our spirits will be refreshed and that we can be an inspiration to others. 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