

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 *April 13, 2008*

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“Look into your hearts and not at what you wear, then worship God for He is all giving and forgiving. God is slow to anger and quick to bless.”

Joel 2:13

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: “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

READING OF THE PSALMS

PSALM 22

**“Sometimes I pray to God during the day, and I pray at night time.
Every one trusts in the Lord, and He answered their prayers.
I will tell all the people what wonderful things God has done. Amen.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of All,

You are the power of the universe. We thank you for Your gifts to us. Help us in all the things we do to remember that You are the source of our strength and blessings.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “Blessed Be the Name”

O for a thousand tongues to sing, Blessed be the name of the Lord
The glories of my God and King, Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be the name, Blessed be the name
Blessed be the name of the Lord.
Blessed be the name, Blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

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: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray,
Take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly Thine

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:42

“The Christians spent time with the friends of Jesus and listened to what they had to teach. They were like a family, eating together and praying together.”

MESSAGE

“The Early Christians”

(My object lesson for this sermonette is something that almost everyone has and can use --- their hands, or in this case one hand. Of course, we have to be mindful that, especially among our people, not everyone is able to use their hands.)

This scripture that we read this morning is very simple. It was about the first people who were Christians. The Bible tells us that they were so close and loving that they were like a family. They use to eat together, and they prayed together too.

They did this because they loved each other. That is the way that Jesus wants us all to live.

Now you may have noticed that I did not bring an object lesson with me this morning. Actually I did, but it is not obvious. The object lesson I have for us to use this morning is one that we all have. You have it, and you too, and me as well.

I'm not going to make you guess because it would take too much time.

The object lesson for today is your hand.

For just a moment, I want everybody to take their hands and clap. (Give all a chance to do that.) Okay, you did very well. But you may remember, if you were listening very closely, that I said “hand” not “hands.”

Now I want you to take just one hand and clap. (Give all a moment to ponder how to clap using one hand.)

You are probably right now thinking that I am crazy. You are probably thinking, “You can't clap with just one hand.”

Well, I want you to know that you can. But it takes a little bit of help. If you turn to the person next to you. You use your one hand and they use one hand, together you can clap.

It takes fellowship. And that was what the early Christians were all about.

They loved each other so much that they had fellowship with one another.

End with a prayer: “We thank You, dear God, always caring for us, even when we are not aware of it. Thank You for always loving us. Help us to love one another. 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.
’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fear relieved.
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of Love,

We do not always understand You, but we are grateful that You understand us and that you watch over us at all. We also ask that You take care of those who are hurt or sick, those who are lonely and those who or hungry.

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