

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 20, 2008*

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“Let us praise God all the time. Let us worship Him together.”

Psalm 34:1

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”

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 138

**We thank You, Lord, with all of our hearts, and we sing songs to You.
We worship You because you are always good to us.
We can always count on Your love and faithfulness.
And You always listen to us when we pray.
You care for everyone whether they are rich or poor.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Dear God,

We thank You for making everything in the world, even us. Thank you for giving us all we need. You are so good to us. Thank You.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “ I Must Tell Jesus”

I must tell Jesus all of my trials; I cannot bear these
Burdens alone; In my distress He kindly will help me;
He ever loves and cares for His own. I must tell Jesus!
I must tell Jesus! I cannot bear these burdens alone; I must tell Jesus!
I must tell Jesus! Jesus can help me Jesus alone.

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: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain,
Free to all a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 3:1-10

“On their way to church Peter and John saw a man who could not walk. He asked them for money, but they did not have any. Instead they asked God to heal the man, and then he was able to walk.”

MESSAGE

“HOW MUCH DOES GOD LOVE YOU?”

(For this week, there are three things you need as object lessons: a picture of a person with thick hair --- or use someone who is present--, an instrument of measure like a ruler or measuring cup, and a Bible.)

Today, I brought something with me that almost all of you will recognize (hold up the measuring device). What is this? (Wait for answers and affirm that which is correct. Then explain what the measuring device does.)

That is great for measuring (flour or height or whatever is appropriate). But I have another question. How do you measure God's love?

Measuring love is not easy. There is a particular verse in the Bible that helps us to understand how great God's love is. It is John 3:16. It tells us that God loved everybody so much that He gave us His Son.

There is another scripture that tells us that God loves us so much He has even counted the hairs on our heads. (Show the picture). Can you imagine loving someone so much that you would even count the hairs on their head?

Well, God loves you that much.

In today's Bible story, John and Peter were telling this man about God's love. They did not have money to give to him, but they could share the good news of God's love.

We too may not have enough money to help someone, but we can share the love of God.

End with a prayer: “We thank You, Loving God, that You are always love us. Help us to show our love for You by caring for others.” Amen.

HYMN: "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
And to know, "Thus saith the Lord."
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust Him more!

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of All,

Today, loving God, with thank You for Your love and Your compassion. We thank You the things that we have that we know came from Your goodness. We also ask that You give to others who are not as blessed as we are. Especially we pray for those who are sick.

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 and keep us safe and help us to be a blessing 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