

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 27, 2008*

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“Remember that the Lord God is the only God and that He will keep His promise to people now and forever who do what He asks.”

Deuteronomy 7:9

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: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.
Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,

From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

READING OF THE PSALMS

PSALM 67

“God, have mercy on us and bless us. Be kind to us. This way everyone will know of your love.

Let all the people praise You, O God.

Everyone will be happy and sing because You are fair.

When the plants have supplied us with fruit, we know that God has blessed us.

And everyone will praise God.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Heavenly Father,

We come to worship You today because we believe in You and we believe Your ways are right. Sometimes our faith is not very strong, and sometimes we feel weak. Today we pray that You will make our faith stronger than before.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “Count Your Blessings”

When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done

Count your blessings name them one by one;
Count your blessings see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, Name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

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: "Standing On the Promises"

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring;
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 4:1-21

"A wicked man told Peter and John not to tell people about Jesus. But Peter and John said to him, 'We will do what God's Spirit tells us to do no matter what you think.'"

MESSAGE

"THE HOLY SPIRIT"

Objects: A radio

I bet all of you know what I brought with me today ---- a radio.

But I would bet something else. I bet none of us knows how it works. Oh, we all know how to turn the knob and make it come on. But very few people understand how the electronic parts of the radio make it produce music or talk.

I do not. I have some brothers who are electricians, and they understand. But I do not.

Somehow or other the sounds of music are made into electric signals and then they are converted into waves that go through the air. I do not understand that. But the antennae of the radio is able to pick those waves out of the air and turn them back into electric signals and then into sound again.

I do not understand how any of that is able to happen.

But it does.

In a similar manner, I do not understand how the Holy Spirit operates. But Peter and John could feel God's Spirit telling them to do what was right. Sometimes there are voices inside of us telling us to do what is right. That is God's Spirit.

When we hear a voice telling us to be bad or to treat people badly, or say mean things --- that is not God.

But when we hear a voice telling us to be good, to treat people kindly, to be forgiving ---- that is the Spirit of Jesus.

End with a prayer: Help us, dear God, to care for others, to feel Your Spirit and be forgiving. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HYMN: "He Leadeth Me"

He leadeth me! O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whatever I do, wherever 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.

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of All,

Thank You for this time that we come together and worship You. Thank You for all of these people. But we also want to pray for many who would like to be here, but can not. So we pray that You would bless those who are sick or hurt. Help them to get well. Help us who are worshipping that we will want to help 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:

May God supply You with every blessing in abundance,
So that by having enough of everything,
You may share abundantly in every good work, 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