

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 6, 2008*

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

### PRELUDE

### INVOCATION

“It is beautiful to see those who bring the Lord’s good news, who proclaim peace, who say, ‘God reigns.’”

Psalm 132:8-9

### 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:** “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 23

**“The Lord is like a shepherd to me. He gives me everything I need.  
He gives me fresh food and water and energy. He leads me in the right way to go.  
Even in the dark, I am not afraid because He is with me.  
He protects me.  
He prepares food for me in front of everyone, and He welcomes me like I am special.  
His goodness and love will go with me all of my life, and I will live with Him  
forever.”**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Dear God,

We know that You made everything in the world, and that You are all we ever need. You are greater than anything else we know. There is nothing of which we should ever be afraid. 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 2: 15-18

**“Jesus told His friends that He loved them and needed their help in telling people about God’s love.”**

**“After Jesus went to heaven, Peter stood in the middle of a large crowd of people with the other friends. Peter and the other friends of Jesus were filled with love. Then he told all the people how God loves everybody.”**

**MESSAGE**

“Strength Together”

(For this week’s object lesson, I have brought an old telephone directory. It is important that the speaker use a directory that can be discarded after being used as it will be at least partially torn destroyed.)

Today’s scripture text tells us the story of the first time Peter preached a sermon. You see, before this time it had always been up to Jesus to preach. But now Jesus had gone to heaven and He had left that job to the disciples.

Peter was not sure what he ought to say. He was probably very nervous. Have you ever had to be in front of a crowd of people? Did it make you nervous?

But Peter found out that having other friends of Jesus with him, gave him the strength to do what he needed to do.

Let me illustrate it this way. (Take the telephone directory and ask someone to tear a page out of it.)

That was no problem at all to tear a page of this directory.

Now try tearing the whole directory in half!

(They may try but are certain not to be able to do it.)

In the same way we find strength in one another. When we band together we are causing each other to be stronger. And that pleases God.

End with a prayer: "We thank You, Loving God, that You always love us. Help us to show our love by supporting one another." 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, we thank You for Your love and Your mercy and compassion. We thank You that You do not just say the words, but that You show Your love by taking care of us. We know that You love all people. Help us to show our love for others by being kind and patient. Forgive us when we fail.

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**