

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

**August 12, 2007**

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

### PRELUDE

### INVOCATION

“The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is my stronghold, of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 27:1

### 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: “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of  
Glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, wash'd in His blood.

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

### READING OF THE PSALMS

Psalm 130

“When I have been very sad, I have said to God, ‘Hear my prayer, O God; listen when I ask You for help. You forgive us, so we obey You. “All of us should wait for the Lord because He always loves us.”

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Dear God,

You know everything that we need. You are greater than anything else we know. You are much greater than our little bit of understanding. You are so great that all we can do is marvel at how wonderful You are.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

## **HYMN: "I am Thine, O Lord"**

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice, And it told Thy  
Love to me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith, And be  
Closer drawn to Thee. Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer blessed  
Lord, to the cross where Thou has dies; Draw me nearer, nearer,  
Nearer, blessed Lord, To Thy precious bleeding side.

## **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: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

Esther 1 & 2

"Esther was so pretty that when the king saw her he fell in love. He made her the queen. She did as her uncle told her, and she was a good queen. One day her uncle her so bad men planned do hurt the king. Because she had obeyed her uncle, Esther was able to save the king."

## MESSAGE

“Esther Obeyed”

(The object lesson for his sermon is a simple balloon, some masking tape and a straight pin.)

The story is about a beautiful woman named Esther. She was so pretty that when the king saw her, he immediately wanted to marry her and make her the queen. Her uncle was named Mordecai, and he was very smart. He would give Esther a lot of advice about how to be a good queen. Esther trusted her uncle and did what he told her to do.

The time came when some mean men wanted to hurt the king. Mordecai told Esther. Because she had done what he had told her to do, she was able to tell the king and keep him from being hurt.

It is a smart thing to do to do what smart people tell us. That is what Esther is able to teach us.

Let me show it to you in this way.

I have brought something with me today that all of you recognize. It is a balloon. Now I know that you all know what a balloon is. Many of you have played with balloons. They are fun.

You also know what happens when you stick a pin in a balloon. It pops doesn't it? Yes it does.

Well, I have been told that there is a simple way of sticking a balloon with a pin and it not popping. Would you like to know the secret? Okay, here it is. They tell me if you just take some masking tape, and I have some, and put a piece of it across the balloon (Put a three or four inch piece of tape on the balloon's surface.) Then cross that with another piece of tape (Using another similar size piece of tape, make an X with the two on the balloon.) Now I am told by people who know that right here where there are two pieces of tape that you can stick a pin in there and it will not pop. Now I don't know if it will work, but I am going to obey and try it. I am going to do what I am told.

(Stick a pin in the intersection of the two pieces of tape. It should go in without bursting the balloon.)

Now I did not know to do that on my own. Someone smarter than me told me how to do it. See! It pays to listen to smart people.

End with a prayer: “We thank You, Loving God, that You hear our prayers. Help us to pray believing.” Amen.

## HYMN: “All Creatures of Our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King,  
Lift up your voice and with us sing;  
O praise ye! Alleluia!  
O brother sun with golden beam,  
O sister moon with silver gleam!  
O praise ye! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Everyone greet one another)

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

God of All,

Today, loving God, Your love for this world and Your mercy and compassion are greater than we can understand. We know that You love all people. Help us also to love others just like You love us. Help us to treat others more kindly and be more patient and more thoughtful. 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**