

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 *December 09, 2007*

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“Lord, turn us to You and cause Your face to shine on us.”

Psalm 80

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: “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

READING OF THE PSALMS

Luke 1:68-79

**“Let us praise the Lord!
He has come to help His people and set them free.
He has provided us with a mighty Savior.
Our God is good and He will guide us to Peace.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Dear God,

We are thankful in this Christmas time that You come to us. We thank You that You come to us in love. Help us to show this in the way that we worship and sing.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “Silent Night”

Silent night, Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

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: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The ever lasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

SCRIPTURE READING

II Corinthians 8:12

"If you really want to give a present to someone, it does not matter how much you have. God only wants you to give as you can."

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

MESSAGE

"Helping the Needy"

(Preparation for this sermon is not complicated. I found three different skeens of yarn of as many colors to coincide with the three colors of a crocheted scarf that my daughter had made. Any item that has been similarly made for the needy could be improvised in a like manner with just a little imagination. I have put all three skeens in a bag along with the scarf composed of the same colors.)

In our scripture for today, Paul was talking about giving. At this time of the year, we do a lot of talking about giving. We give presents and we get presents at Christmas time. I think it all began with the Wisemen on that first Christmas bringing gifts to Baby Jesus in the manger.

One of the most wonderful gifts to give is the kind that we make with our selves. Some of you have made gifts for me. And I really like those gifts.

It is too easy for us to think that we are so poor that we have nothing to give others. But the truth is that everyone has something that they can give. We can all give our freindship. We can show that we are friends by listening, encouraging or maybe just giving a smile or a hug.

Some time when you think you do not have much to give I want you to remember what I am going to show you. My daughter down in Wilmington one day had a friend give her a skeen of yarn like this one (Pull out a skeen from a bag where it has been kept). Not much could be done with just one skeen of yarn. But later on another friend gave her another skeen of yarn like this one (Take another out of the bag). Well, would you believe it. That same day a third person gave her another skeen of yarn. (Take the third one from the bag).

Now, not much could be done with any one of these skeens But my daughter thought about it for a while, then she took all three of them, and she made something nice with them. (Take the scarf from the bag). And here it is. This is a neck scark that she is going to give to some poor person who lives in a homeless shelter. It will help them to keep warm

this winter.

I want you to think about this. Not a one of these four people could have helped anyone all by themselves. But when they each put their gifts together, wow, something good came out of it.

End with a prayer: “Help us, Loving God, to see what we have in our hearts to make the world a more loving place to live.”

HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of Peace,

You are the Prince of Peace. We sing praises to You today because You loved us so much that You gave Your Son to be our Savior. Thank You for the peace that can be in our hearts today. Help us to share this peace with others by being kind and loving to them just the same way You are to us.

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