

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

February 18, 2007

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“The person who lives with God will dwell safely with the Almighty. We will tell others that God is our place of safety. We trust in Him.”

Psalm 91:1-2

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: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

All hail the power of Jesus’ name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of All;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of All.

READING OF THE PSALMS

PSALM 91

“The Lord will keep you safe from all dangers; He will cover you with His wings. You have made God your protector so His angels will hold you up. God said, ‘I will save those who love me; I will be with them who are in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them. I will give them a long life.’”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

Thank You for watching over us and keeping us safe. Because You are so good to us, we come here today to worship You and sing songs of praise. We come to worship and ask You to bless our lives.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story, Of unseen things above.
Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story, Because I know ‘tis true.
It satisfies my longing, As nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story! ‘Twill be my theme in glory.
To tell the old, old story, Of Jesus and His love.

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: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and grief to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 5:22-23

“God’s spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control. There is no law against such things.”

MESSAGE

“The Tater Family”

(This is an old object lesson that has been around for many years. There is probably no way to know with whom it originated. I remember using it in Children’s sermon thirty years ago. But its ability to keep interest as well as get across the lesson that people use church for a variety of reasons that has nothing to do with the teachings of Jesus still works. A variety of potatoes with a little ingenuity is all that is needed. I have dressed these potatoes up a little to better represent the personalities that I wish to address.)

Many of you have probably already looked to see what I have brought with me today. Some of you think that I have brought a sack of potatoes. Actually, I have brought with me a family. It is the tater family.

See, here is the father and here is the mother. Then I also have the little boy and the little girl in the family. Finally, there is the baby.

Let me introduce them to you one at a time.

Here is the father. His name is Dick. Have you ever heard of ‘Dick-Tater’? Yes, dictator is the kind of person who always has to have his way. He all the time wants to tell other people what to do.

And this is his wife. Her name is Agi. Have you ever heard of ‘Agi-tater’? An agitator is the kind of person who always wants to stir up problems. They are not satisfied with people enjoying one another.

Here is their son. His name is Spec. Now, I know that many of you have heard of ‘Spec-tater.’ Spectator is a lazy person. He never does anything; he just likes to sit around and watch other people work. He does not enjoy participating in worship. He only wants to sit and do nothing.

Lastly, but not at all the least is their daughter. Her name is Emma. I bet you have heard of ‘Emma-tater.’ Imitator is the kind of person who is always concerned with what other people think about her. So she constantly copies other people and does not think for herself.

Oh, yes! I almost forgot to tell you about the baby of the family. The baby’s name is Sweet. I know you have heard of her, ‘Sweet-tater.’ Sweet tater is the one in the family I like the most because she always is nice to everyone. She does not insist upon getting her way all

the time. She tries to be pleasant and love everyone. She is like what our scripture today says we should all be like: love, joy, peace, patient, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

Wouldn't it be a better Tater Family if all the Taters were like Sweet? In fact, wouldn't it be a better world if all of us would be like Sweet?

End with a prayer: Thank You dear God for taking care of us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

HYMN: "He Leadeth Me"

He leadeth me! O blessed tho't!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
What-e're I do, wher-e're I be,
Still 'tis God's hands 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 Love,

We know that You are love. Our prayer today is that You would help us to be more loving just as You are. Help us to be patient with others and control ourselves --- especially when we want to be angry or say bad things.

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:

Go forth in peace, joy, love and kindness.
Go as God's people and He will go with you.
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

MUSICIANS: