

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 *June 29, 2008*

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“Lord our God, we have a need to be near You and to feel You near us. Let us feel Your presence in this time that we come to worship. As we sing, as we pray, as we listen to Your word --- let us feel that You are close by us. Amen”

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: “Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.”

**“When the Lord answers our prayers, we laugh and sing for joy!
Other people see this and say, “The Lord did great things for those people.”
And that is true, the Lord has done great things for us, and we are happy!”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,

We thank You for life and health and for the privilege of worshipping You during these moments. Sometimes, God, we are selfish and do not think about other people. Please take care of them just as You have been good to us.

We pray also that as we hear Your word today, we might understand it a little more. More than that, help us as we try to live it each day this week.

In Jesus Christ we pray,
Amen

HYMN: “Morning Has Broken”

Morning has broken like the first morning.
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing. Praise for the morning.
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word.

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: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not.
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.
Great is Thy Faithfulness; Great is Thy faithfulness.
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 7:7

“If you ask, it will be given to you; if you seek, you will find it; and if you knock, it will be opened for you .”

MESSAGE

“Heads You Win; Tails You Win”

(Object lesson for today can be one or more of a number of items related to decision making by chance: a coin for tossing, a fortune cookie. The central idea of this sermonette is about seeking God’s guidance.)

I am going to do something that many of you probably have done at one time or another. (Take the coin, preferably one large enough to be seen by them from the pews and ask if they know what the two sides of the coin are known as. Then flip it in the air asking if it will be heads or tails.) Well, in truth it could be heads or tails.

Or perhaps you might like this way of predicting the future. I have brought a fortune cookie. Once in a while Sue and I will go to a Chinese restaurant. At the end of our meal they always bring us a fortune cookie. It is a small cookie but on the inside of it is a piece of paper with a prediction for the future of the person who was dining.

Sometimes when a person is flipping a coin to determine what they should do, they keep tossing it until they get the answer they want.

In our scripture today, Jesus was telling the people that there is a better way of making an important decision. Pray about it!

Now the way He said it was for us to ASK God, then to SEEK and lastly to KNOCK, like at a door. But He could just as easily have said “PRAY!”

HYMN: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion; Pure unbounded love Thou art;

Visit us with Thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.”

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of All,

We come thanking you for the blessings that You have given us over and over again. Help us also to be giving. Help us to see that every day there are people around us who need our love, compassion and understanding. Do not let us forget to be willing to ask you for the things that we need and that You want us to have.

We pray this prayer in the name of Him 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 the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and give you peace this day and forevermore. 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