

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 *May 18, 2008*

(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

**“No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”**

MESSAGE

“The Mystery of God’s Nature”

(The object lesson for today has been used previously. It is a blown up copy of a picture that is often used in psychological experiments to prove that different people can look at the same item and have a completely different interpretation of what they are viewing. This is a drawing that can either be interpreted as a beautiful young lady or an ugly old with. I have found it on several websites pertaining to psychology and down loaded it easily. To make the concept more easily seen, I have rendered two other pictures more clearly displaying, one the beautiful woman, and two the ugly witch, so that I have brought three pictures with one purpose.)

I have brought with me a most unusual picture today. Actually, I have brought with me a few pictures, but one of them in particular is important.

I want to show you the picture. (Display the one from which you can make out either the young lady or the witch.) Can you see a person in this picture? Some people see the young lady. Other people see the old witch. Which do you see?

Depending upon your perspective, you can see either one.

(Play with all three until some people catch on.)

Isn’t that wonderfully mysterious? I think so. God too is wonderfully mysterious. Sometimes we think of God as God the Father as when we pray “Our Father who art in heaven...”

Sometimes we think of God as in the flesh like Jesus when we sing “What a Friend we have in Jesus...”

Then other times we think of God as the Holy Spirit when we think of “He Leadeth Me”

God is mysterious.

It is hard for us to think about God. It is impossible for us to understand Him. Jesus once told us that the only way for us to even understand what the Kingdom of God was like was to be guided by His spirit.

Just like it helps us to have someone point out to us what to see in these pictures, we need help understanding God.

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:**