

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 *November 18, 2007*

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“I lift up my eyes to You whose throne is in heaven.”

Psalm 123:1

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: “We Gather Together”

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessings;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,

Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.

READING OF THE PSALMS

PSALM 147

**“It is useless to do any work without the Lord.
For everything that we do, it is necessary that God approve of it.
Even working for a living, it is important that we do everything for God.
Children are a blessing from God.
If we make God first in everything about our lives, God will take care of us.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God,

We know that You are the Maker of all things. We see Your love for the world in the good things that You have made that help us. For things like food and homes and clothes, we thank You. Especially for our friends we thank You because we see Your love in their goodness.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Come, ye thankful people comeing, Raise the song of Harvest home!
All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God’s own temple, comer.
Raise the son of harvest home.

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: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth,
Over and around us lies:
Christ our god to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:25

"Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father. You are the Lord of heaven and earth. Next to You, even the smartest people on earth are like little children.'"

MESSAGE

"GOD WANTS US TO BE THANKFUL"

(For today's object lesson, I have brought a couple. One is a picture or two --- large pictures so that everyone can see --- of family members. The other is a cell 'phone.)

Everyone knows that it is just a few days before Thanksgiving Day. Now, I know what everyone is going to do on Thanksgiving Day. We are all going to eat turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce and sweet potatoes.

But there is a lot more to Thanksgiving than just eating a big dinner.

Thanksgiving is also a time when we get to see family and friends that we have not seen for a long time. I know many of you are looking forward to seeing your families. (Hold up a picture of a family member, for me this is one of my daughters.) I am looking forward to seeing _____. I have not seen him/her for a long time, and I miss them.

Being with your families is something for which we truly can be thankful.

Being with Jesus is also like a big Thanksgiving time. We are all like children to Him, and being with Him is like a big home coming.

But when I can not see _____, one of the things I like to do is to speak with him/her over the 'phone (take out the cell 'phone making certain before hand that it is turned off).

Now you may have already guessed what I am about to say next. God wants to talk to us just like we like to speak with those we love when we can not be close to them. That is exactly what prayer is. It is simply talking long distance to God. God wants to know what we are thinking and how our day went. He wants to know our opinions and He wants to hear what we have to say. Even sometimes when we do not know what to say, God would like for us to stay in touch with Him by prayer, so that He can feel close to us.

HYMN: “Standing on the Promises”

Standing on the promises of Christ my King, Thro’ eternal ages
Let His praises ring; Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God. Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Saviour; Standing,
Standing, I’m standing on the promises of God.

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of All,

We know that You are the Maker of everything. We also know that You love everyone. We pray for You to heal those who need You in this time. We want You to comfort those who are sad and be close to those who are lonely.

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