

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 25, 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.

**“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: “Blessed Be the Name”

O for a thousand tongues to sing, Blessed be the name of the Lord!
The glories of my God and King, Blessed be the name of the Lord!
Blessed be the name, Blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name of the Lord! Blessed be the name,
Blessed be the name, Blessed be the name of the Lord!

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

MARK 12:41-44

"When Jesus was in the temple, He could see people giving their money. There were some rich people who dropped a lot of money into the treasury.

"Then came a lady whose husband had died, and she had two little children. All the money she had was two pennies, but she gave those two pennies to God.

"Jesus told His disciples that she had given more to the Lord than all the rich men because she had given everything that she had."

MESSAGE

"GOD KNOWS WHAT WE REALLY GIVE"

One time when Jesus was in the temple (which is like a big church), He noticed how the rich people were showing off as they gave their offerings. They made the appearance of giving it to God, but they really were drawing attention to themselves.

Now, the way they took the offering in those days was to have a very large brass bowl to put it in. But they would not just place it in the bowl, they would slip the coins into a slot that would make a lot of noise when the money went into the bowl. The more money someone put in there, the more noise it would make.

They would show off by placing lots of coins in the noisy bowl.

Jesus happened to notice a woman with two children. Her husband had died. With no one to take care of her and with two small children to feed, this lady did not have much money. All she had were two very small coins --- pennies. It was all the money that she had, but she gave it to God.

Her little pennies did not make much sound --- not like the rich men's big coins.

But Jesus told His disciples that she had given more than the rich men because she had given everything that she had.

You see she gave to God her love, and that is what God really wants from us --- our love.

(For this sermonette, I have attached two 2-litre bottles at their openings forming a passage way between the two. While pennies will not go through this 'bottleneck', dimes will. Cutting the bottoms off of them, I can easily demonstrate how the coins make a lot of noise going from one to another through the opening. This is accentuated even more by placing a stainless steel bowl underneath and allowing several coins to 'clunk' their way through the plastic bottles and then 'clank' into the bowls. For comparison purposes, the noise of two additional dimes can be somewhat muted by a bit of tape wrapped around them thus making them the two 'widow's mites' that do not attract much attention as did the rich men's offerings.)

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