

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 October 28, 2007

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

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“My soul will be joyful in the Lord; it will rejoice in His salvation.”

Psalm 35:9

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: “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

O for a thousand tongues to sing, My great redeemer’s praise,
The glories of my god and King, The triumph’s of His grace.
My gracious Master and my Gopd, Assist me to proclaim,
To spread thro’ all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.

**“In the chapel when it is filled with people, I will praise You,
Lord, for all the wonderful things You have done.
In front of those who worship You, I will worship You.
Everyone in the world will turn to Him.
He is the King; He is the King over all nations.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Mercy,

We all need to learn more of You. Teach us each day more of what You are like, the way You love, how You care for others, and how You forgive. Teach us also how to believe, not only in You, but also in Your way for our lives. Teach us also how to love others even as You have loved us.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “At Last and Did My Savior Bleed”

At last and did my Savior bleed And did my Savior die?
Would He devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?
At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day.

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: "In Christ There Is No East or West"

In Christ there is no east or west, In him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love Throughout the whole wide earth.
In Christ now meet both east and west, In Him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him, Throughout the whole wide earth.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 13

"God blessed Abram and he was rich. He and Lot divided their land. God gave Abram all the land that he could see, and Abram obeyed God. But Lot had bad neighbors."

MESSAGE

"Choose Your Friends Carefully"

(Object Lesson: an empty box that looks as though it could be used for moving.)

Look what I have with me today. It looks like an empty box. And that is exactly what I have brought with me today --- an empty box. But it is a special kind of box. This box is made for moving. When you move you have to pack your belongings in a box like this and take your goods with you --- your clothes, your books, your toys, everything that you own.

Abram and his nephew Lot moved. They came to a place and decided to settle down. There was so much land, they divided the land. But Lot made a mistake. As long as he was around Abram things went well for him. As long as he was close to Abram, Lot was good like Abram was. Abram was a good influence on Lot.

But when Lot went to his new home, he met with some bad people. Lot began to act more like them than like Abram.

Sometimes it is the same way in our lives. If we stay around good people, we are good like them. But when we are around bad people, we are not so good. That is why it is so important for us to choose our friends carefully. The kind of people that we choose to be with makes us the kind of person that we are.

End with a prayer: Thank You, dear God, for our friends. They are very important to us. Help us to choose the friends that You want us to have. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HYMN: "Praise Him, Praise Him All ye Little Children"

Praise Him! Praise Him, All ye little children
God is love, God is love.
Praise Him! Praise Him, All ye little children,
God is love, God is love.

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of Love,

There are so many things we want to ask of You, God. There are people that we love who need You to heal them. There are lonely people who need Your comfort. We thank You for blessing us, but we also ask You to bless many other people.

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:

Let us leave this place of worship and go forth as people of God's love and peace.
May the peace of God 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