

A Service for Advent 2008 in Samarès Manor Crypt

Leader The light of Christ has come into the
 world

The candles are lit in silence

Leader In this Advent season we await the
 coming of the Christ Child

**Response Child of promise, come;
 Revealer of God, come;
 Bringer of life, come.
 Come to the beaten and the battered;
 Come to the despised and rejected;
 Come to all of us in whom the divine
 image is still hidden and distorted.**

Leader Lord, we await your coming in joyful
 expectation

Hymn Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
 Once for favoured sinners slain;
 Thousand thousand saints attending,
 Swell the triumph of His train:
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
 God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply
wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

The dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears;
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshippers;
With what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for Thine own;
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come
quickly!
Everlasting God, come down.

Reading Genesis 12:1-2; 15:1-2

Reflection

The Cantabile Ensemble

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
(Malcolm Archer)

Intercessions

following each prayer we sing (twice):

**The Lord is my light, my light and salvation.
In him I trust; in him I trust.**

Come not as a mighty emperor...
Come not as a proud prince...
Come not as a man of power...
Come not as a man of power...
Come to those outcast...
Come to foreigners...
Come to rich and poor...
Come to bless all creation...
Come to bring salvation...
Come to rule in justice...
Come, child of promise...
Come, child of compassion...
Come, prince of peace...

Advent reflection

Journey of the Magi
(T.S. Eliot)

Hymn Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
behold the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near;
the Saviour of the world is here.

O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King of triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come, with us abide;
our hearts to thee we open wide;
let us thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in us reveal.

Thy Holy Spirit lead us on
until our glorious goal is won;
eternal praise, eternal fame
be offered, Saviour, to thy Name!

Reading Isaiah 40:1-11; 28-31

The Cantabile Ensemble

In the Bleak Mid-Winter
(Philip W.J. Stopford)

Leader Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of
darkness and to put on the armour of
light, now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us
in great humility;
that on the last day, when he shall come
again in his glorious majesty to judge the
living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with
you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

*In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.*

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

Refrain

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

Refrain

Leader We wait with all the peoples on earth

**Response Child of hope, we welcome your coming;
Christ of life, we welcome your coming;
King of Glory, we welcome your coming.**

Blessing