

Greater Altar
(27)

ADVENT PREFACE

That prayer is the Advent Preface for the Prayer of the Eucharist;
 and the chant I've been using to begin these programmes this month is ^{MUSIC} ^{from the lyrics of the} ^{the hymn for the}
^{orthodox Christmas} a modern carol, 'Come Love Greeting', which I think well expresses ^{the note of joy}
 hour of Vespers, from the daily prayer of the Church. The musical settings of the 7th century
 poem] ^{carry} carries a (clear) note of joy, ^{enhancing} the meaning of the hymns ^{themselves are} which is a
 prayer in praise of God's love sending Christ to be our redeemer. Joy it very much
 a Christian response to life ---- → MP 45

MUSIC - Palestrina: Altus Redemptionis R26

Leisure is one of the big, ^{largely} unremarked problems of today, and perhaps especially here in HK.
 It is a human need that gives scope for the re-creation and enjoyment that living a full
 life of human dignity requires: to say nothing of the requirements of religious - Christian living.
 The joy of Christmas, or of any of the events - occasions wh. people celebrate, needs the
 time and spaciousness of true leisure, wh. it not idleness but a creative development -
 use of personal talent, ability, and interest. Where there is no leisure at all, or people
 don't know how to make use of leisure, there is a de-humanising, de-personalising
 result. People may choose to forego time for themselves, for their personal tastes &
 interests, in order to gain some other advantage: but they shd. never have to do so
 - and this is one of the features of much of our commercial and industrial life here wh.
 cries out for protest, in the name of common humanity and of any kind of human life -
 culture in our city. Yet ^{from time to time} (you have ~~to~~) prominent industrialists ^{have advocated} fewer holidays
 for the ordinary working people whose lives are impoverished enough as it is. One doesn't
 have to be a Christian to enjoy a holiday at Christmastime; but even a Christian shd.

be careful to give himself a time of leisure in which to rejoice with Christ, to be really
 joyful in the celebration of Christmas rather than superficially gay and ^{yet} exhausted with
 keeping up social customs wh. don't necessarily help to make Christmas a Christian celebration.
 This Advent period gives us a reminder, and a chance to reflect on the meaning & importance
 of Christmas, to prepare and have leisure to rejoice in the Lord.