

Proverbs 22: 6
Train up the children in the right way,
and when they are old, they will not depart from it.

THE GIFT OF CHILDREN

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,
with opt. C-Instrument*

Words by
JAN McGUIRE

Music by
LLOYD LARSON (ASCAP)

Tenderly (♩ = ca. 69-72) *p unis.*

SOPRANO
ALTO

ACCOMP.

mp (+ C-Inst.) *p* (- C-Inst.)

Pedal carefully.

5

Lord, You

give the gift of chil - dren, breath of heav - en here on earth: Ours to (mel.) *p unis.*

TENOR

BASS

9

treas - ure, love and nur - ture, and we thank You for their birth. Fresh and (mel.)

(+ C-Inst.)

* Part for C-Instrument may be found on p. 8. Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 18952.

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13 *mp* *mf*

new they are to us, Lord, yet You've known them from the

mp *mf*

mp (- C-Inst.) *mf*

16 *dim.*

start. We give praise, in awe and won - der, for each

dim.

(+ C-Inst.) *dim.*

19 *rit.* *a tempo* *p* *mp unis.*

pre-cious work of art. Ours the

p *mp unis.*

a tempo *mp* *p* *rit.*

task to teach them wise - ly all the things You'd have them

(- C-Inst.)

27 know; Do-ing as Your Word com - mands us. "Train them up as they should

mf

(+ C-Inst.)

mf

31 *dim. e rit. mp unis. a tempo* *cresc. poco a poco*

go." — As we live our lives be - fore them, let them see us look to You for the

dim. e rit. mp unis. cresc. poco a poco

a tempo

dim. e rit. mp *cresc. poco a poco*

36 *mf* *dim. e rit. unis.*

pres-ence of Your Spir - it, guid-ing all we say — and do, guid-ing

(- C-Inst.) *mf* *dim. e rit.*

(+ C-Inst.) *dim. e rit.*

40 *a tempo p* *mf*

all we say and do. Lord, we

a tempo mp *p* *mf*

(- C-Inst.) *mf*

45

come to face this chal - lenge know-ing we are not a -

48

lone; — You are al - ways there to help us, as we

(+ C-Inst.)

53

51 chart this
chart, chart this course un - known. — Let us al - so help each oth - er, for by

chart this

f (- C-Inst.)

(+ C-Inst.)

55

know
Your design we know, we know that the church must, as a fam - 'ly, help its
know

dim.

dim.

know, we know

dim.

59 *rit.* *a tempo*
mp
 chil-dren learn ___ and grow. Lord, You

64 *mf* *dim. e rit.* *freely to end*
mp
 give the gift of chil - dren, these Your pre - cious works ___ of art.

* Children of the Heavenly Father (*alt.*); traditional Swedish melody.

Proverbs 22: 6

*Train up the children in the right way,
 and when they are old, they will not depart from it.*

The Gift of Children is a general anthem that may be especially appropriate for baptism, parent-child dedication, teacher ordination and installation, and confirmation. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Proverbs 22: 6, Ephesians 6: 4, 2 Timothy 3: 14-15, scriptures focusing on Jesus' calling the children to come to Him (Matthew 19: 13-15, Mark 10: 2-16, Luke 18: 15-17 and Hebrews 2: 9-18), and the great commandments (Matthew 21: 23 - 22: 46, Mark 11: 27 - 12: 34, Luke 10: 25-28 and Luke 20: 1-44). One basic homiletical theme is the gift of children, nurtured and sustained by the family of God.

Hints of the traditional hymn *Children of the Heavenly Father* appear in the keyboard (mm. 60-63) and in the optional C-Instrument part, which may be played by flute or violin. Thus, performances of this anthem will be enhanced by the programming of this hymn or related hymns (e.g., *Jesus Loves Me*, *Jesus Loves the Little Children*) in the same worship service.

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C-INSTRUMENT

Music by
LLOYD LARSON (ASCAP)

Tenderly (♩ = ca. 69-72)

mp

5 4

9 p mp mf

13 3

17 a tempo mp rit.

24 3 mp mf dim. e rit.

32 a tempo mp mf mf dim. e rit.

3 3

40 a tempo p mf

45 4

50 53 f mf < f > mf

57 a tempo f mp rit.

62 64 rit. mp freely to end

* Children of the Heavenly Father (*alt.*); traditional Swedish melody.

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