Let the Children Come is an anthem for general services that is especially appropriate for Pentecost, marriages, and baptisms. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 128, Matthew 19: 13-15, Mark 10: 2-16, Luke 18: 15-17, and Hebrews 2: 9-18. One basic homiletical theme is that those who trust in God with the spirit of a child will be welcomed in God’s Kingdom.

This beautiful anthem of childlike trust is distinguished by rich harmonies, accessible vocal lines, and lyrically flowing accompaniment. In rehearsal, strive for a well-focused tone that cleanly articulates the legato choral lines, removing any excess vibrato. Practice mm. 3-11 with the entire choir singing on “noo” until uniform tone and fluid phrasing are achieved. This opening solo should have a childlike quality of simplicity and may also be performed by an entire section. The keyboard accompaniment is richly supportive in the manner of nineteenth century art song and should carefully partner with the choir in the anthem’s performance.

J. Paul Williams is a free-lance lyricist living in Little Rock, Arkansas. His texts are widely published appearing in church anthems by some of this generation’s most prominent composers. Formerly Associate Pastor of Music at Calvary Baptist Church in Little Rock, he earned music degrees from Oklahoma Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Joseph M. Martin is an active composer and pianist with over 600 published compositions and four solo piano albums to his credit. He holds piano performance degrees from Furman University and the University of Texas. A native of North Carolina, he makes his home in Austin, Texas.
LET THE CHILDREN COME

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,
with solo or optional unison children’s choir

MARK 10: 13-16
Adapted by
J. PAUL WILLIAMS

Music by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Tenderly (\( \text{d} \) = ca. 80 - 84)

SOLO
(opt. unison children’s voices)

ACCOMP.

Let the children come unto me,
let the children come to me.

Bring them near,
bring them here.

* Also available in an edition for S.A.B. or 2-part mixed voices, No. 21556.

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Let the children stay, don't send them away.

SOPRANO

ALTO

Let the children

TENOR

Let the children come unto me,

BASS

Let the children come unto me,

come, come to me.

let the children come to me.