



Lead This Child, Precious Lord

Written by Dorothy J. Smith

Composed by Dorothy J. Smith

Description

Dorothy Smith has given us a set of three beautiful pieces of service music. Smith expresses the theme of God's leadership in our lives: 1) "Lead This Child, Precious Lord" 2) "Go Now With Blessings" 3) "Lead Our Way, Lord of Light" The first is a response or dedicatory prayer especially for use during a parent/child dedication service, or on Mother's Day/Father's Day. The third line is especially pertinent for parental guidance under the Lord's direction: "May his parents teach by showing him the greatest gift is love..." "Go Now..." is more demanding for the choral group. In this setting the soprano line functions independently of the lower voices with nice arching phrases. The lower voices act as accompaniment and should be treated as such, they should provide strong harmonic underlayment for the melodic line above. "Lead Our Way..." is a benediction that asks the Lord to keep us safe, guide our steps, and fill our walk with 'boundless grace.' All three of these settings are lyric and devotional in temperament.

Editor's Notes

The first two are scored for SATB Choir, preferably a cappella, while the third is SAB. This collection is one that will allow the choral group to grasp the music quickly. Work the phrases so that they have a natural lilt and taper, especially the second one with the arching melodic soprano lines. These would also be good for choral memorization, in that they are accessible, memorable, and rather brief. Challenge the choral group to take this step with these.

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WORDS BY:
Dorothy J. Smith

Lead This Child, Precious Lord

S.A.T.B. Choir

MUSIC BY:
Dorothy J. Smith

Warmly

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Warmly' and the dynamics are 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The score consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'Lead this child, precious Lord, take his hand. (take his hand).— Guide his steps, O Lord of Light, thro' shif-ting sand. (shif-ting sand.)— May his par-ents teach by show-ing him the great-est gift is love; take his hand, pre-cious Lord, show the way. A - - men.' The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

mp Lead this child, pre-cious Lord, take his
hand. (take his hand).— Guide his steps, O Lord of Light, thro' shif-ting
sand. (shif-ting sand.)— May his par-ents teach by show-ing him the
great-est gift is love; take his hand, pre-cious Lord, show the
way. A - - men.

WORDS BY:
Dorothy J. Smith

Lead Our Way, Lord of Light

S.A.B. Choir

MUSIC BY:
Dorothy J. Smith

1 Reverently

mp Lead our

5 steps, Lord of Light, e - v'ry day.

9 - May our walk with Thee be brigh - tened by Your

12 love and bound - less grace. Lead our way, Lord of

15 Light, lead our way. A - - - -

The musical score is written for piano accompaniment in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The score is divided into five systems, each with a measure number (1, 5, 9, 12, 15) at the beginning. The lyrics are placed below the notes. A large diagonal watermark 'Sample. Do not reproduce' is overlaid across the score.

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