

*A Ceremony for
Infant Dedication or Baptism*

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In the Simple, In the Small

Words by
Joseph M. Martin

Music by
Joel Raney

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In the Simple, In the Small

A Ceremony for Infant Dedication or Baptism

For S.A.T.B. Voices and Piano Accompaniment

Words by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Music by
JOEL RANEY

Tenderly (♩ = c. 92)

"Jesus Loves the Little Children"
George F. Root

Piano *mp*

4 S.A. Unison *mp* 6

In the sim - ple, in the

T.B. Unison *mp*

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Liturgy for the Infant Dedication (or Baptism) ceremony is on pages 10-11.
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7

small, Lord, we see you best of all. New

10

life, in our em - brace, shines on us your daz - zling

13

14

grace. With each coo and fall - ing tear may our

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4

16

al-ways there to share a
love be ev - er near.

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19

sigh, _____ or to sing a lul - la by. Come and

poco rit.

22 a tempo

see this child of light, shin - ing pure and

a tempo

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25 *mp espress.* A little slower

bright. We thank you, Lord, for chil - dren; — help us

mp espress.

A little slower

mp espress.

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28 *mf*

teach them what we know as they live, and dream, and

mf

mf

32

Opt. ending if underscore is NOT used
rit.

Opt. ending if underscore is used
rit.

grow.

Opt. ending if underscore is NOT used
rit.

Opt. ending if underscore is used
rit.

p

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jump to m. 52
after ceremony

continue to next meas.

35 Gentle and slow (♩ = c. 84) "Jesus Loves Me" William B. Bradbury

Measures 35-38 of the piano introduction. The right hand plays a simple melody in treble clef, and the left hand plays a bass line in bass clef. The tempo is marked 'Gentle and slow' with a quarter note equal to approximately 84 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

Measures 39-42 of the piano introduction. The melody continues in the right hand, and the bass line continues in the left hand. The tempo and key signature remain the same.

Measures 43-46 of the piano introduction. Measure 44 includes a section marked '+ CHOIR' with a piano (p) dynamic. The right hand has a long note with a 'Oo' vocal line underneath. The left hand continues its bass line. A 'Repeat as needed' instruction is placed between measures 44 and 45.

Measures 47-50 of the piano introduction. Measures 47 and 48 feature a piano (p) dynamic in the right hand with a long note and a 'Oo' vocal line underneath. The left hand continues its bass line. Measures 49 and 50 continue the piano introduction.

51

Piano begins here after the ceremony
if underscore is not used.

53

Tempo I (♩ = c. 92)

mf

Pre - cious are the lit - tle ones, sweet bless - ings from a -

Tempo I (♩ = c. 92)

mf

57

filled with prom - ise, filled with hope a

bove

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8

60

rit.

f

a tempo

mir - a - cle of love.

Come and see this child of

rit.

a tempo

light,

shin - ing pure and bright.

*mp espress.*We
mp espress.

65 A little slower

thank you, Lord, for chil - dren; — help us teach them what we

A little slower

mp espress.

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In the Simple, In the Small

69 *mf*

know as they live, and dream, and

mf

mf

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72 rit. *mp* Slower (♩ = c. 84)

grow. as they live, and

mp

rit. Slower (♩ = c. 84)

mp

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NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

75 rit.

dream, and grow.

rit.

p

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In the Simple, In the Small

Infant Dedication or Baptism Ceremony

*(This ceremony is intended to serve as an option and a guideline.
Churches are encouraged to make it their own according to their customs and beliefs)*

THE WELCOME

In the name of Christ, we welcome *(Parents' names)* who come today bringing their child, *(Child's name)*, presenting *(him/her)* for *(dedication/baptism)* into this church and into the Christian faith.

In his youth, Jesus was presented in the Temple by his parents, and in his life he often took children into his arms and blessed them. In like manner today we celebrate the precious gift of life, the joy of parenthood, and the faithfulness of God. As parents and as a church, we join together in making commitments before God for the sake of this child.

THE PROMISES

Minister to parent(s): *(Parents' names)*, do you offer thanks to God for the gift you've been given, and do you accept the joys and responsibilities of parenthood?

Parent(s): Before God and these witnesses, we do.

Minister: Do you promise to raise *(Child's name)* and share your faith and beliefs, while providing for *(him/her)* a community in which *(he/she)* will be nurtured by Christian love?

Parent(s): Before God and these witnesses, we do.

Minister to the Congregation: As members of this community of faith, and as representatives of the wider church of God, do you promise to offer *(Child's name)* and *(his/her)* family your love and support, and, being faithful in prayer, will you share your faith with *(him/her)* by word and example? If you will promise this, please reply "We do."

Congregation: We do.

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Infant Dedication or Baptism Ceremony (cont.)

THE BLESSING/BAPTISM

The Minister may either lay a hand upon the head of the child, or perform the baptism while saying:

(Child's name), the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; and may the Lord lift the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace, this day and always. Amen.

THE PRESENTATION

The Minister may either hold and present the child, or alternatively, walk around the church so that all may see and greet the child. Returning to the front of the church, the minister returns the child to the parents, then continues in prayer.

Minister: *(Child's name)*, these are your friends and your brand new extended family. You are a gift to all of us, and a reminder from God that we must all come as little children, as empty vessels with open hearts. Greet them now, that they may thank God for you.

THE PRAYER

Minister: Let us pray. Lord God, creator of all things, giver of life, we come today to joyfully thank you for the gift of new life in the birth of this, your precious child. We thank you for the love that brought this gift into existence, and for the love that will carry *(him/her)* through life. For these things, and the other countless blessings of this life we give you our thanks and praise, in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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