

Let the Children Come – When the disciples turned the children away from Jesus, there must have been a reason. Though they may have been laughing and playing, being a little too loud, Jesus drew them close with all their youthful exuberance. During my years in church ministry, I've heard people complain about children being too loud or energetic. Yet, everyone always loves to see them involved in church.

In this anthem, I've tried to capture the exuberance of children and embrace the joy that comes from leading them closer to Christ. After the playful opening, notice the text beginning in measure 29. The words remind us to teach them the Word and to live true to our teachings so we may be worthy examples.

This piece should be sung with high eyebrows, with bright vibrant tone, and a playfulness that will celebrate childhood and all the blessings children bring to our churches.

Pepper Choplin is a full-time composer, conductor, and humorist. He has gained a reputation as one of the most creative writers in church music today. With a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, he has also earned a Master of Music degree in composition from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas.

With a diverse musical background, Choplin composes in varied styles, such as folk, gospel, classical, and jazz. His anthems consistently appear in the top seller lists of publishers and distributors. Since 1991, his choral music has sold several million copies. Each week, thousands of singers present his music in churches and schools in the United States and around the world.

He travels to many churches and conferences to share his compositions, to conduct, and to entertain. Beyond his choral music, Choplin has produced two humorous CDs and an inspirational recording. In his solo concerts, he moves audiences with his powerful ballads and his zany humor.

Choplin attends Greystone Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he served as music minister for twenty-two years. There in his hometown, Choplin has conducted several mass performances of his Easter and Christmas cantatas in Meymandi Concert Hall (home to the North Carolina Symphony) with over two hundred voices and full orchestra.

to Janie (Kuehn) Hainline,
for joyfully sharing music with children of all ages;
with gratitude for her 25 years
as Director of the Westminster Presbyterian Church Choir of Ottawa, Kansas

LET THE CHILDREN COME

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Words and Music by
PEPPER CHOPLIN (ASCAP)

Optional Reader: (from Mark 10:13-14,16)

People brought little children to Jesus that He should touch them, but the disciples

Playfully (♩ = ca. 132)

ACCOMP.

rebuked them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and forbid them not." And He took the

children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them. 9

7 SOPRANO / ALTO mf

TENOR / BASS mf

Let the chil - dren come -

* To purchase a full-length performance recording (42919) of this piece, go to alfred.com/downloads.

— un - to Me, as they laugh_ and play... Lead them My way...

Let the chil - dren come__ un - to Me. Do not turn them a - way...

Bring all the chil-dren to Me.



19

Let the chil - dren come un - to Me, as they run and shout,

22

Let the chil - dren come un - to Me. Do not

row - dy and loud.

25

turn them a - way. Bring all the chil - dren to Me.

29 Smoothly, a bit slower (♩ = ca. 126)

mp

Tell them sto - ries, full of won - der.

Smoothly, a bit slower (♩ = ca. 126)

mp

Teach them from_ their birth.

mp

Tell the chil - dren

they are My chil - dren, full of ho - ly worth.

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37

mf

Nothing you do__ must cause them to stum - ble; live a life__ that's

mf

mf

40

true. Show My love__ by how you__ love__ them.

43

mp

They will see Me__ in you. They will see Me__ in

mp

They will see Me__ in you.

mp



46

mf

f

you. They will see Me in you.

They see Me in

mf

f

49

you.

Let the chil - dren come_

52

un - to Me, as you nur-ture and feed,_

mf

guide_ and lead_

55

Let the chil - dren come — un - to Me.

Do not

57

Do not turn them a - way; — but let the chil - dren come —

turn them a - way; —

60

— un - to Me, as they laugh — and play, — lead them My way. —

63

Let the chil - dren come — un - to Me. Do not turn them a - way...

66

Bring all the chil-dren to Me. When they

69

laugh — and play — lead them My way...

When they run — and shout, —

72

f when you nur - ture and feed, —

row - dy and loud;

f

74

guide_ and lead, — let the chil - dren come,

ff

77

come to Me. —

f