

SIMPLE GIFTS FROM GOD

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied,*
and optional C-Instrument**

Words by
J. PAUL WILLIAMS

Music by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Expressively ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 96 - 100$)

FLUTE (optional)

ACCOMP.

4 SOPRANOS & ALTOS Unison

6 *p*

Sim - ple things, sim - ple things,

8 TENORS & BASSES Unison

p

these are from the Lord. Sim - ple things,

* Also available in an edition for S.A.B. or two-part mixed voices, No. 4294.

** Part for C-Instrument may be found on page 11.

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ALL VOICES

(p)

11

sim - ple things, these are gifts from God: The—

sim - ple things,

these are gifts

from God:

The—

(flute tacet)

musical notation for flute part, marked (flute tacet)

musical notation for piano accompaniment

14

S. *mp unis.*

A.

moon at night, the morn - ing light, the rain - bow in the

T. *mp unis.*

B.

musical notation for vocal parts S, A, T, B

musical notation for piano accompaniment, marked *mp*

17

rall. e dim.

p

a tempo

sky,

O— sim - ple things,

sim - ple things,

rall. e dim.

p

musical notation for vocal parts and piano accompaniment

musical notation for piano accompaniment, marked *rall. e dim.* and *a tempo*

20

these are gifts from God.

these are gifts from God.

(FLUTE)

mp

20

23

25

Sim - ple things, sim - ple things,

mp

Sim - ple things, sim - ple

(flute tacet)

23

25

mp

27

these are gifts from God. Sim - ple things,

things, gifts from God. Sim - ple

30

sim - ple things, these are gifts from God: A

things, these are gifts, gifts from God:

33

mf ten - der smile, a lov - ing kiss, the laugh - ter of a

mf

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36 *rall.* *mp* *unis.* *a tempo*

child. O sim - ple things, sim - ple things,

mp unis.

Sim - ple things, sim - ple

(FLUTE) *a tempo*

rall.

36 *rall.* *mp* *a tempo*

39

these are gifts from God.

T.

B.

things are gifts from God.

mf

39

42 *molto legato* **43**
mf

*'Tis a gift to be sim-ple, 'tis a gift to be free; 'Tis a

mf unis.

42 **43**
mf

45

gift to come down where you ought to be; And when you find your-self in the

f

45

* SIMPLE GIFTS. Traditional American Shaker tune and text.
 4293

48

place just right, t'will be in the val - ley of love and de-light.

48

mf

51

molto cresc. e rit.

f

SOPRANOS & TENORS 55 Majestically (♩ = ca. 80 - 84)

Unison *molto rit.*

f

Sim - ple things, sim - ple things,

ALTOS & BASSES Unison

'Tis a gift to be sim-ple, 'tis a gift to be free; 'Tis a

Majestically (♩ = ca. 80 - 84)

molto rit.

f

54

55 Majestically (♩ = ca. 80 - 84)

molto rit.

57

these are from the Lord.

gift to come down— where you ought to be; And

57

59

Sim - ple things, sim - ple things, sim - ple gifts of

when you find your-self in the place just right, t'will be in the val - ley of

59

63 Slightly slower

poco rit.

S. *mf* *p*
A. These are gifts from

T. *mf* *p*
B. love and de-light.

Slightly slower

mf *poco rit.*

63 Slightly slower

mf *poco rit.* *mp*

65 *rit.*

God.

rit. e dim. *p*

65 *rit. e dim.* *p*

SIMPLE GIFTS FROM GOD

C - INSTRUMENT

Music by
JOSEPH M. MARTIN

Expressively (♩ = ca. 96 - 100)

4 *p* 6 3

11 14 6

20 *mp*

24 25 7 33 6

40 43 *mf*

44 3

51 *rit.* 55 *molto rit.* *f* Majestically (♩ = ca. 80 - 84)

57

61 63 Slightly slower *mf poco rit.*

65 *mp* *rit. e dim.* *p*

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Simple Gifts from God is an anthem of general praise that is especially appropriate for harvest or Thanksgiving services and for Christmastide or Epiphany. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include 1 Samuel 2: 18-26, Psalms 111 and 136, Luke 2: 41-52, and Colossians 3: 12-17. One basic homiletical theme is praising God for the many gifts of Creation.

In rehearsal, strive for a gently flowing legato with sensitive text declamation. Instruct all voices to sing the melody softly from m. 6-21, listening for the underlying eighth note pulse generated by the accompaniment. Next, sing the melody on “noo,” pulsing eighth notes uniformly with the accompaniment and shaping each phrase dynamically. Continue this technique in the rehearsal of m. 55-62 as the melody pairs with the traditional Shaker tune until the two tunes are precisely aligned.

Joseph M. Martin, an accomplished pianist and widely published composer, is Minister of Music at Bee Cave Baptist Church in Bee Cave, Texas. With music degrees from Furman University and the University of Texas at Austin, he is the owner of MusKids, a national preschool music education program.

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 pre-eminent 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.