

# The Gentle Secret of Manhood

Duet: Higher and lower voices  
(Written to honor a departing missionary son)  
(Based on I Cor.13:11-13; Matt.18:3; Mos.3:19-21)

Words and music by Michael Smurthwaite Thoughtfully ♩ = 80

*Recitativo*

When I was a child I walked and

talked as a child, and un - der - stood like the child I was. I

*ten.*

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2

played as a child, laughed as a child and had the vi-sion of the child I

This system contains measures 2, 3, and 4. The vocal line is in the treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: "played as a child, laughed as a child and had the vi-sion of the child I". The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef.

This system contains measures 5, 6, and 7. The piano accompaniment continues in the bass clef, with the right hand in the treble clef. The melody is primarily in the bass clef.

10

was. Now I am a man I walk and

This system contains measures 10, 11, and 12. The vocal line is in the treble clef. The lyrics are: "was. Now I am a man I walk and". The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef.

This system contains measures 13, 14, and 15. The piano accompaniment continues in the bass clef, with the right hand in the treble clef. The melody is primarily in the bass clef.

13

talk like a man, and un - der - stand like the man I am. Walk

This system contains measures 16, 17, and 18. The vocal line is in the treble clef. The lyrics are: "talk like a man, and un - der - stand like the man I am. Walk". The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef.

13

This system contains measures 19, 20, and 21. The piano accompaniment continues in the bass clef, with the right hand in the treble clef. The melody is primarily in the bass clef.

16

tall like a man, speak truth like a man. See with vi- sion like the man I

16

19

am.

19

22

Tentatively

ten.  
But can I

22

rall.

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4  
25

rea - lly be a man like my Dad says I can? Will I put a - way child - ish

25

28

things? Can I al - ways be true, full of faith, full of love? Oh

28

31

Lord, hear my prayer, the yearn - - - ing

31

34

prayer of a man - child.

37

The Lord replies with understanding tenderness:

Child - hood, man - hood,

40

come, my son, come fol - low me. Oh hear the

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6  
43

se - cret, the gent - le se - cret of man - hood.

This system contains measures 43, 44, and 45. It features a vocal line in the bass clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff. The lyrics are: "se - cret, the gent - le se - cret of man - hood." There are two triplet markings over the notes "se - cret" in measure 45.

46

With resolution  
Be - hold! Be - hold the child, for

This system contains measures 46, 47, and 48. It features a vocal line in the bass clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff. The lyrics are: "Be - hold! Be - hold the child, for". A fermata is placed over the first "Be - hold!". The key signature changes to A major (two sharps) at the beginning of measure 46.

49

such is the king - dom of hea - ven. Un - less a man be - comes as a

This system contains measures 49, 50, and 51. It features a vocal line in the bass clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff. The lyrics are: "such is the king - dom of hea - ven. Un - less a man be - comes as a". There are two triplet markings over the notes "such is" in measure 49. The key signature remains A major.

52

child he can-not en-ter the king-dom of God.

*rall.*

55

*f* *poco accel.*

Man must see as a child. Be meek, pure and mild, and be -

Man must see as a child. Be meek, pure and mild, and be -

58

come a child of Christ! To be a man, be -

come a child of Christ! To be a man be -

61

come a man of God! \_\_\_\_\_

come a man of God. \_\_\_\_\_

65

*mp*

Be - hold! \_\_\_\_\_ Be-hold the child, for such is the king-dom of

*mf*

Be - hold! The nat - 'ral man must yield to the

69

hea - ven. Un - less a man be-comes as a child \_\_\_\_\_ he can-not

Spi - rit, sub - mit - ua - - to - all - things - - - as - a



72

en - ter the king - dom of God. of God. — Man must  
- child doth - sub - mit to his - Fa - ther and his - God. - Man must

Detailed description: This system contains measures 72, 73, and 74. It features a vocal line with a treble clef and a piano accompaniment with a bass clef. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The vocal line includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 73. The lyrics are: "en - ter the king - dom of God. of God. — Man must - child doth - sub - mit to his - Fa - ther and his - God. - Man must".

75

see as a child. Be meek, pure and mild, and be - come a child of  
see as a child. Be meek, pure and mild, and be - come a child of

Detailed description: This system contains measures 75, 76, and 77. It features a vocal line with a treble clef and a piano accompaniment with a bass clef. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The vocal line includes a dotted quarter note in measure 76. The lyrics are: "see as a child. Be meek, pure and mild, and be - come a child of see as a child. Be meek, pure and mild, and be - come a child of".

78

Christ! To be a man, — a  
Christ! To be Christ a man, — a man of

Detailed description: This system contains measures 78, 79, and 80. It features a vocal line with a treble clef and a piano accompaniment with a bass clef. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The vocal line includes a dotted quarter note in measure 78. The lyrics are: "Christ! To be a man, — a Christ! To be Christ a man, — a man of".

81

man, of Christ! \_\_\_\_\_ be - come a  
pow'r and love, \_\_\_\_\_ oh then be - come a

Detailed description: This system contains measures 81, 82, and 83. It features a vocal line with a treble clef and a piano accompaniment with a bass clef. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The vocal line starts with a quarter note 'man', followed by a half note 'of Christ!' with a long horizontal line underneath. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a moving bass line in the left hand.

84

man of God! \_\_\_\_\_  
man of God! be-come a man of God! \_\_\_\_\_

Detailed description: This system contains measures 84, 85, and 86. The vocal line has a treble clef and the piano accompaniment has a bass clef. The key signature remains three sharps. The vocal line has a half note 'man', a quarter note 'of', and a half note 'God!' with a long horizontal line underneath. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

87

Detailed description: This system contains measures 87, 88, 89, and 90. The vocal line has a treble clef and the piano accompaniment has a bass clef. The key signature remains three sharps. The vocal line has a half note with a long horizontal line underneath. The piano accompaniment features chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The system ends with a double bar line.