



# Child of God's Great Love

4th century, Latin  
Translated by John Mason Neale and Henry W. Baker  
Adapted by Dan Schutte

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
Adapted and arranged by Dan Schutte

**INTRO: Tenderly and with simplicity** (♩ = ca. 134)

Keyboard

Musical notation for the keyboard introduction. It consists of two staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music begins with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The melody in the right hand is simple and tender, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes.

Musical notation for the main part of the piece. It consists of two staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The melody in the right hand is simple and tender, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes.

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Instrumental parts for Violin I & II, Cello, and Bass are available from the publisher, Edition 70057.

♩ VERSES:\*

Descant  
(verse 4)

*ff*

4. Sing with us, O heights of heav - en;

Melody

*mf-ff*

1. Child of God's great love be - got - ten,  
2. Won - drous birth for - ev - er bless - ed:  
3. Long fore - told by sage and proph - et,  
4. Sing with us, O heights of heav - en;

Baritone

(verse 3)

*f*

3. Long fore - told by sage and proph - et,

*mf-ff*

4. join with us all crea - tures be - low. God's great

1. known be - fore the worlds \_\_\_\_\_ be - gan, Christ the  
2. Maid - en held in heav - en's em - brace trusts her  
3. Child con - ceived by heav - en's de - sign, born to  
4. join with us all crea - tures be - low. God's great

3. Child con - ceived by heav - en's de - sign, born to

\*During Verse 4, Handbells may double the melody (one octave higher) to great effect.

4. love has o - ver - shad - owed us, brought us

1. first and love's be - gin - ning, Christ the  
 2. heart to God's un - fold - ing plan, bore a  
 3. bless all sons and daugh - ters, come to  
 4. love has o - ver - shad - owed us, brought us

3. bless all sons and daugh - ters, come to

The first system of the musical score features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The vocal parts are arranged in four voices: Soprano (top), Alto (second), Tenor (third), and Bass (bottom). The piano accompaniment is written for the right and left hands of the piano. The music is in the key of D major and 4/4 time. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'PREVIEW' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

4. life in bless - ing and woe. Let no voice on

1. last, love's glo - ri - ous end. All the things that  
 2. child a - bound - ing in grace. Low - ly lit - tle  
 3. grace all ag - es of time. Christ, the Morn - ing  
 4. life in bless - ing and woe. Let no voice on

3. grace all ag - es of time. Christ, the Morn - ing

The second system of the musical score continues the vocal and piano parts. It follows the same four-voice arrangement and piano accompaniment as the first system. The lyrics for the four voices are: Soprano (4. life in blessing and woe. Let no voice on), Alto (1. last, love's glorious end. All the things that), Tenor (2. child a-bounding in grace. Lowly little), and Bass (3. grace all ages of time. Christ, the Morning). The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic and melodic patterns. The 'PREVIEW' watermark remains visible.

4. earth be sad or si - lent this day; let your

1. are and all that ev - er have been, all that  
 2. babe, the dear be - lov - ed of God, here dis -  
 3. Star, the Hope and Her - ald of Peace, now on  
 4. earth be sad or si - lent this day; let your

3. Star, the Hope and Her - ald of Peace, now on

4. prais - es o - ver - flow ev - er - more and

1. fu - ture years shall see,  
 2. plays God's smil - ing face } ev - er - more and  
 3. ev - 'ry face will shine }  
 4. prais - es o - ver - flow }

3. ev - 'ry face will shine ev - er - more and

1-3 D.S.

4. ev - er -

1.-4. ev - er - more.

3. ev - er - more.

1-3 D.S.

Final

4. - more.

4. - more.

Final

# Child of God's Great Love

(Guitar/Vocal)

4th century, Latin

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**INTRO:** *Tenderly and with simplicity* (♩ = ca. 134)

D A/C# Bm F#m/A

G Em Asus4 A

♩ VERSES:

D G D

1. Child of God's great love be - got - ten, known be -  
 2. Won - drous birth for - ev - er bless - ed: Maid - en  
 3. Long fore - told by sage and proph - et, Child con -  
 4. Sing with us, O heights of heav - en; join with

D/F# G A7sus4 G D/F#

1. fore the worlds be - gan, Christ the first and  
 2. held in heav - en's em - brace trusts her heart to  
 3. ceived by heav - en's de - sign, born to bless all  
 4. us all crea - tures be - low. God's great love has

A Bm Bm7/A G Em7

1. love's be - gin - ning, Christ the last, love's  
 2. God's un - fold - ing plan, bore a child a -  
 3. sons and daugh - ters, come to grace all  
 4. o - ver - shad - owed us, brought us life in

A7sus4 D Dsus4 D

1. glo - ri - ous end. All the things that  
 2. bound - ing in grace. Low - ly lit - tle  
 3. ag - es of time. Christ, the Morn - ing  
 4. bless - ing and woe. Let no voice on

1. are and all that ev - er have been, all that  
 2. babe, the dear be - lov - ed of God, here dis -  
 3. Star, the Hope and Her - ald of Peace, now on  
 4. earth be sad or si - lent this day; let your

1. fu - ture years shall see,  
 2. plays God's smil - ing face  
 3. ev - 'ry face will shine  
 4. prais - es o - ver - flow } ev - er - more and

1-4. ev - er - more.

4. - more.

## Performance Notes

*Child of God's Great Love* is an adaptation of the beautiful Christmas hymn *Of The Father's Love Begotten*, which has its origin in the 13th-century Gregorian chant tune *Divinum Mysterium*. It functions well as a prelude piece, as a thanksgiving hymn after communion, or as a closing song.

This is a wonderful hymn for the entire congregation. It can be sung in an intimate setting with simple guitar accompaniment or in a cathedral with pipe organ and string ensemble. Many of the assembly will recognize the melody and easily join in the singing.

One suggested manner of performance may be heard on the recording. Here the hymn builds from solo voice and guitar to full choir and congregation, with descant, piano, organ and strings.

Another possible arrangement is as a traditional four-stanza hymn, all singing the entire piece. Shape the piece such that each verse has a different quality: one strong, the next quiet; one unison, the next two-part harmony, the next full choir with descant. Or ask only the women to sing one verse and the men another.

—D.S.

## Assembly Edition

CHILD OF GOD'S GREAT LOVE

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
Adapt. by Dan Schutte

1. Child of God's great love be - got - ten,  
2. Won - drous birth for - ev - er bless - ed:  
3. Long fore - told by sage and proph - et,  
4. Sing with us, O heights of heav - en;

1. known be - fore the worlds be - gan,  
2. Maid - en held in heav - en's em - brace  
3. Child con - ceived by heav - en's de - sign,  
4. join with us all crea - tures be - low.

1. Christ the first and love's be - gin - ning,  
2. trusts her heart to God's un - fold - ing plan,  
3. born to bless all sons and daugh - ters,  
4. God's great love has o - ver - shad - owed us,

1. Christ the last, love's glo - ri - ous end.  
2. bore a child a - bound - ing in grace.  
3. come to grace all ag - es of time.  
4. brought us life in bless - ing and woe.

1. All the things that are and all that ev - er have  
2. Low ly lit - tle babe, the dear be - lov - ed of  
3. Christ, the Morn - ing Star, the Hope and Her - ald of  
4. Let no voice on earth be sad or si - lent this

1. been, all that fu - ture years shall see,  
2. God, here dis - plays God's smil - ing face  
3. Peace, now on ev - 'ry face will shine  
4. day; let your prais - es o - ver - flow

1-4. ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: 4th cent., Latin; tr. by John Mason Neale and Henry W. Baker; adapt. by Dan Schutte.  
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