

Earnestly Tenderly

He was a sweet little
Church of God and
Sunday School boy
in the 1950s

At a time when the church
did not know any better
we whispered —
thought he was different
and maybe he would
grow out of it

He didn't grow out of it
grow out of who he was
and the church
and the church —
lost him
as did his brother who
was not able to deal with
his brother's being gay

The boy later man found
a community of souls
who loved him
for who he was —
sacred
made in the divine image —
and they grieved their loss
when he passed to the
always welcoming
wide open arms of Jesus
six years ago

Another child of the church
exiled by an interpretation
of scripture that forbids
little children to come
and by failure to abide
by the great commandments
love God who is Love
love neighbor as self

There is no do over
for little Johnny
or for the church
but there are
lessons to be learned
and lives to be saved

Perhaps even
the confessing church
can be saved

Time to turn
one more time
in the green hymnal
to page 552 and sing
"Love unknown
hath broken
every barrier down —
just as I am"

Just as we all are!

Time to stop the
abandonment of
the Children of God
the Children of
the Church of God
who as the poet says
"Come trailing
clouds of glory"
and "Over whom
Heaven's golden light
is streaming . . ."

Singing in all voices harmony
Singing in our diverse unity —
"I am a Child of God"

We All are the Children of God!

Amen.

christie
A Mother's Day Prayer
on my confessing knees, May, 2023
Singing for Johnny and
my dear friend, his brother,
and their mother.

