A Prayer for the First Day of Preschool  
Kayla Craig

(*To Light Their Way*, by Kayla Craig; pp 45; c 2021)

We can’t believe this day is finally here,  
O God, Creator of babies,  
Who grow so fast.

We see their still-round cheeks  
And their skinned knees  
And their too-big backpacks,  
And we marvel at the sneaky passing of time ---  
Where has our baby gone?

The days have ticked by, hour by hour,  
Changing diapers and teaching them how to walk.  
Now we ask You to guide their steps, O God,  
In their light-up sneakers  
and legs that have lost their toddler rolls,  
Giving way to longer, leaner limbs,  
Ready to explore.

May we rejoice at their excitement.  
May we not diminish their fears.  
And may we instill in them confidence  
To walk into their first classroom  
Full of new faces   
And new adventures.

Bless the teachers who have prepared for them.  
Give them imagination to guide our child,  
And give them patience, Lord --  
So much patience.  
May our child make a friend or two  
And be transported to lands of make-believe  
Via centers and color-coded carpets  
That have a little magic in them.  
We thank You for sand tables and glitter glue,  
For story time and blocks galore.  
May they explore new toys  
And get their hands a little dirty too.

When the day is done, O Lord,  
Will You bring them safe into our arms?  
Because they’re preschoolers now,  
But they’ll always be our babies.

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Psalm 107:1; Matthew 19:14; Proverbs 1:8-9