

in honor of my father, Laurent

Let Me Go Now in Peace

Assembly, SAB Choir, Keyboard, and Guitar

Based on Luke 2:29-32

Dan Schutte

INTRO *Reflectively* (♩ = ca. 88)

Am Am/G F Eb F G7sus4 G

Keyboard

Composer Notes

This piece was inspired by the magnificent passage in Luke, Chapter 2, where Mary and Joseph take their young infant to the temple to be presented and dedicated to God. And there's old Simeon, near blind, who realizes that this newborn child is the one the nation of Israel has waited for, the Messiah of God. Moved to tears, he sings a song, known later as the "Nunc Dimittis," that captures the moment: "Let me go now in peace, Lord, for my eyes have seen your salvation." It is the song of a good man who has lived a full life and is now ready to go home to God.

Although some of the guitar chords take practice, either piano or guitar works well for accompaniment. It's important to keep the accompaniment from masking the beauty of the words. Nothing should distract people's attention from entering into the prayer of the piece. On the recording you will hear the string arrangement that supports the overall effect – simple and elegant.

This is, of course, a perfect piece for a wake or funeral liturgy. However, it could also be used appropriately for healing, anointing services, and Night Prayer (Compline). At its core, the piece is a prayer of surrender to God, offering back to God the gift of our lives.

—Dan Schutte

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3

poco rit. *a tempo*

told. I have held in my arms God, my Sav

poco rit. *a tempo*

Am Dm C/E G7sus4

poco rit. *a tempo*

1 *poco rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *D.S.*

ior.

poco rit. *a tempo* *rit.*

1 C Am Am/G Eb Fm/Ab G7sus4 G *D.S.*

poco rit. *a tempo* *rit.*

2 *poco rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *D.S.*

ior.

poco rit. *a tempo* *rit.*

Dm G E Am F Dm G7sus4 G7 *D.S.*

poco rit. *a tempo* *rit.*

2

VERSES

Soprano *a tempo*

Alto *a tempo*

1. Hear the prayer of your ser - vant; let me go now
2. I have walked in your tem - ple in the soft
3. I have worn smooth your path - ways that I've loved the

Baritone *a tempo*

C G/B Am F

a tempo

1. peace to the home you have prob - ised where our joys nov - er
2. light, and have knelt in your pas - sages in the still of the
3. start, as you've carved lov - ing car - veings in the stone of my

G7sus4 G C/E D/F#

poco rit. *a tempo*

REFRA

1. cease, I have seen with my eyes what the proph - ets have fore -
2. night, I have seen with my eyes what the proph - ets have fore -
3. heart, I have seen with my eyes what the proph - ets have fore -

poco rit. *a tempo*

Am Em F Fm/Ab

poco rit. *a tempo*

4

Final *poco rit.* *a tempo* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

ior.

poco rit. *a tempo* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Final C Am Am/G F

poco rit. *a tempo* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

G7sus4 G7 C G7 C

poco rit. *a tempo* *molto rit.*