

## Program Notes

As we reflect on the Cross in the Lenten season, we move toward the realization that the entire journey includes struggle, suffering, betrayal, and death. The darkness of the journey to the Cross brings reality to our souls that says, “Christianity encompasses both the light and darkness.” Yet we trust that the darkness will lead to light, beauty, and peace. We plead for the mercy of God when times are dark. We beg for the grace of God in our lives as we plod and struggle toward the light. We want that sense of security and comfort to return so that we are “home” again. *Home* can be a place, a feeling, a spiritual place of repose, and a feeling of peace that readily sings, “It is well with my soul.” We long for *home*, and we search for *home*. We find our *home* in the One who was the Lamb of sacrifice; the One who offers forgiveness, healing, solace, and grace.

The inspiration for this arrangement is a Lenten prayer by Greg Funderburk, written during some of our nation’s recent dark days, when our souls cried out for God’s mercy amid profound uncertainty. Phrases from Greg’s prayer were paired with a traditional Scottish tune, the text leading to an original refrain pleading for *home*.

In order to effectively reflect the mood of the text, I used a solo cello to interpret the desire for peace, with its own independent motive used with countermelodies to compliment the piano and voices. Though the cello is optional, we hardly get the full effect without it. If a cellist is not available, consider substituting with an electronic keyboard.

This arrangement is written to affect the listener at the deepest level, with a yearning for the living Christ, the *home* of the soul. May you sing this anthem with the understanding of how we sing ourselves *home* to a state of peace and contentment, a necessary foundation for individuals living in a chaotic world.

### *Verse 1*

In the darkness of the Cross, we gather here.  
In the sorrow of the soul, our God is near.  
In the pain of shadowed love, for mercy we long.  
In the night of darkened song, our God leads us home.

### *Refrain*

God of mercy, lead us home, lead us home.  
Give us comfort in this place, and return us to your grace.  
Awaken, God of mercy, lead us home.

### *Verse 2*

My soul longs for light, when the darkness shall end,  
and peace is the gift of Your presence within.  
Your light is our guide, your grace is our song.  
Awaken, God of mercy, and lead us home.

### *Refrain*

# God of Mercy, Lead Us Home

SATB and Piano, with opt. Cello

Greg Funderburk

Arranged by  
Earlene Rentz

**Moderately ca. ♩ = 72**

Violoncello

*mp* *poco*

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

**Moderately ca. ♩ = 72**

Piano

*mp*

6

*mp*

*unis. mp*

In the dark-ness of the Cross, we

Text: Greg Funderburk, Copyright © 2020, and administered by Birnamwood Publications.

Tune: "Kennet's Dream," Traditional Scottish, first published in 1760 in *Caledonian Pocket Companion*, (PD).

Music: Earlene Rentz (ASCAP), newly arranged, and copyright © 2024 Birnamwood Publications.

Copyright © 2020, transferred in 2024 to Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP),  
a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

[www.MorningStarMusic.com](http://www.MorningStarMusic.com) All rights reserved

12

gath - er here.

*mp*

In the sor-row of the soul, our God is

17

In the pain of shad - owed love, for mer - cy we

near. For mer - cy we

21

long. In the night of dark - ened song, our God leads us

long. In the night of dark - ened song our God leads us

25

**Moving along**

home. God of mer - cy, lead us home, lead us

home. God of mer - cy, lead us home, lead us

**Moving along**

29

*mf*

*mf*

home. \_\_\_\_\_ Give us com-fort in this place, and re -

*mf*

home. \_\_\_\_\_ Give us com-fort in this place, and re -

*mf*

33

*poco rit.*

*mf*

*mp*

turn us to your grace. \_\_\_\_\_ A - wak - en, God of mer - cy,

*mp*

turn us to your grace. \_\_\_\_\_ God of mer - cy,

*poco rit.*

*a tempo*

*mf*

*mp*

38 *gradually a little faster*

*mp* *mf*

home, — lead — us home, —

lead us home, home, — lead us home,

lead — us home, — home, — lead us home,

lead — us home, — lead us home,

*gradually a little faster*

*cresc.*

43 *poco rit.*

*f* *f*

lead us home. —

lead us home, lead us home, home. —

lead us home, lead us home, home. —

lead us home. —

*poco rit.*

*f* *dim.*

(*cresc.*)

47 **Tempo primo**

*p* *p*

*p*

My \_\_\_ soul \_\_\_ longs for light, when the dark - ness shall

*p*

My \_\_\_ soul \_\_\_ longs for light, when the dark - ness shall

**Tempo primo**  
[Opt. a cappella to m. 63]

*p*

51

*mp* *mp*

end, and \_\_\_ peace \_\_\_ is the gift of Your pres - ence with -

*mp*

end, and peace \_\_\_ is the gift of Your pres - ence with -

55

*mf*

in. Your light is our guide, your grace is our

*mf*

in. Your light is our guide, your grace is our

*mf*

59

*mp*

song. A - wak - en, God of mer - cy, and lead us

*mp*

song. A - wak - en, God of mer - cy, and lead us

*mp*



63

home. \_\_\_\_\_ God of mer - cy, lead us home, lead us

home. \_\_\_\_\_ God of mer - cy, lead us home, lead us

Play

*cresc.* *mf*

67

Vlc. *poco rit.* *a tempo*

home, \_\_\_\_\_ lead us home. \_\_\_\_\_ God of

home, \_\_\_\_\_ lead us home. \_\_\_\_\_ God of

home, \_\_\_\_\_ lead us home. \_\_\_\_\_

*f* *mp* *mp*

*poco rit.* *a tempo*

72 *molto rit.*

Vlc. *mp*

S  
A

mer - cy, lead us home, \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* Lead us home, \_\_\_\_\_ home, \_\_\_\_\_

T  
B

Lead us home, \_\_\_\_\_

*molto rit.*

*mp*

76

*p*

lead us home, \_\_\_\_\_

*p* lead us home, \_\_\_\_\_

*p*

lead us home, \_\_\_\_\_

*pp*

*8vb*