

No Night There

Dan Forrest

Preview copy - Not for performance

From the Composer

Several passages of Scripture (see references on the next page) came together for me in a unique way during Advent and Christmastide 2022 to create this text:

Emmanuel, meaning “*God with us*”, is not merely a Christmas word; from the very first chapter of the New Testament, to Jesus’ final words on earth, to the final chapters of Revelation, God reminds us, “I am with you”.

“*God is for us*” - Psalm 118:6 can be translated “God is with us” or “God is for us” - not away from us, or against us, but for us; therefore “I will not fear.” Even in the valley of the shadow of death, we need not be afraid (Psalm 23:4) - why? Because God is with us. I set these words remembering friends currently facing terminal illness.

“*Do not be afraid*” - All the main characters in the story of Christ’s Incarnation and Nativity - Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds - are all told, “Do not be afraid.” The messenger of God himself repeatedly assures trembling and fearful people with words of comfort and hope.

“*No night there*” - God promises a renewed heaven and earth, and that there will be no night there, no crying there, no pain or death- all of these are gone forever; and in what is one of the most tender phrases ever written, the God who is with us, and for us, will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

These words of comfort were originally conceived for Longest Night services during the Advent and Christmas season, but are equally appropriate in All Saints’ services, in times of mourning or memorial, or anytime throughout the year to offer words of comfort to hurting people, whose pain may or may not be readily apparent.

God is with us. God is for us. Do not be afraid.

– Dan Forrest

In honor of Dr. John McKellar for his 30 years of faithful service
at White's Chapel Methodist Church, Southlake, Texas

No Night There

For SATB Chorus and Piano
with optional solo violin or orchestra*

Matt. 1:23, 28:20, Rev. 21:3
Psalm 118.6, 23:4
Luke 1:13,30, Matt. 1:20, Luke 2:10
Revelation 22:5, 21:4

DAN FORREST
(ASCAP)

Andante, freely
mp

SA
TB

God is with us; God is for us; do not

Piano

1 2 3 4 5

be a - fraid.

Tenors only *mp*

There shall be,

p *espressivo*

7 8 9 10

*Available separately: score and parts for solo violin (BP2318A) or score and parts for full orchestra (BP2318B)

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Flowing ♩ = ca. 76

unis. p

No night there, No

Musical notation for measures 11-15. The vocal line is in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The piano accompaniment is in two staves (treble and bass clefs). The tempo is marked 'Flowing' with a quarter note equal to approximately 76 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'unis. p' (unison piano). The lyrics are 'No night there, No'.

Flowing ♩ = ca. 76

Piano accompaniment for measures 11-15. The right hand is in a treble clef and the left hand is in a bass clef. The music consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

cry - ing there, God shall wipe a -

(Tenors)

Musical notation for measures 16-20. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'cry - ing there, God shall wipe a -'. A tenor part is indicated with '(Tenors)'. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern.

God shall

Piano accompaniment for measures 16-20. The right hand has a more active melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment.

way ev - 'ry tear, ev - 'ry tear

wipe a - way +Basses

Musical notation for measures 21-25. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'way ev - 'ry tear, ev - 'ry tear' and 'wipe a - way +Basses'. The piano accompaniment features a more complex texture with chords and moving lines in both hands.

Piano accompaniment for measures 21-25. The right hand has a melodic line with eighth notes, and the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and eighth notes.

There shall be *mp*

from their eyes. No *mp*

26 27 28 29 30

(always shape phrases, simile)

there, There shall be

night there, No cry - ing

31 32 33 34 35

there, God shall wipe a - way

a - way, a -

a -

36 37 38 39 40

*If divisi is used, alto sings the cue-size notes and upper text. If no divisi is used, alto sings the middle notes and text.

way ev - 'ry tear, way, tear, ev - 'ry tear

way ev - 'ry tear,

41 42 43 44

unis.

from their eyes.

unis.

45 46 47 48 49

Slightly slower, freely *mf* **Tempo I**

E - ven in the val - ley of the shad - ow of death,

mf God is

Slightly slower, freely *p* **Tempo I** *mp*

50 51 52

mp

I will fear no e - vil;

mp unis.

with us, God is for us.

53 54 55 56

Freely *mf* Tempo I

Lo, I am with you al-ways, ev - en to the end, end,

mf

the, God is

Freely Tempo I

57 58 59

I am with you to the end.

for us, with you to the end.

60 61 62 63 64

Tempo I

rit. *f* (but still comforting; always shape phrases)

There shall be No night there.

unis. *rit.* *f*

Tempo I

bring out countermelody

rit. *f*

65 66 67 68 69

There shall be No crying there, God shall

unis.

70 71 72 73 74

wipe a way ev - 'ry tear,

a way, a way ev - 'ry tear,

75 76 77 78 79

ev - 'ry tear from their eyes.

80 81 82 83 84

Soprano
rit. *f a tempo; espressivo*

No night there,

Alto
rit. *f a tempo; espressivo*

God is with us, God is

Tenor
rit. *f a tempo; espressivo*

No night there,

Bass
rit. *f a tempo; espressivo*

God is with us, God is

mf rit. *f a tempo; espressivo*

85 86 87 88 89

there shall be No cry - ing there, God shall
 for us, God is with us, God is for us,

there shall be No cry - ing there, God shall
 for us, God is with us, God is for us,

90 91 92 93 94

wipe a - way ev - 'ry tear,

Do not be a - fraid, a - fraid, I am

wipe a - way ev - 'ry tear,

Do not be a - fraid, a - fraid, I am

95 96 97 98 99

— ev - 'ry tear from their eyes.

with you, I am for you, do not

8 — ev - 'ry tear from their eyes,

with you, I am for you, do not

100 101 102 103

rit. al fine mp

Do not be a -

rit. al fine mp

be a - fraid. Do not be a -

rit. al fine

a fraid.

rit. al fine

be a - fraid.

rit. al fine mp

104 105 106 107 108

fraid.

fraid.

mp

8 *mp*

God is with us, God is for us.

God is with us, God is for us.

109 110 111 112 113

p

No night there.

p

No night there.

p

8 *p*

No night there.

p

No night there.

114 115 116 117 118