

# Come Home

Inspired by Luke 15  
and a reflection of Marie Schwan, CSJ

Bob Dufford, S. J.  
Keyboard accompaniment by Rick Modlin

**INTRO:** (♩ = ca. 88)

Keyboard

**VERSES 1, 2:** (♩ = ca. 88)

*rit.* *a tempo*

1. When all your limbs are  
(2. Or if) life has lost its

Bb7sus4 Bb Eb Fm/Eb

1. wear - y, and all your laugh-ter stilled, and  
2. lus - ter, and glo - ry fades with time, and


Eb Fm/Eb Eb Fm/Eb Eb Bb

© 2002, 2005, Robert J. Dufford, SJ. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

Parts for Flute I & II are available from the publisher, editions 70468-Z3 & 70469-Z3.

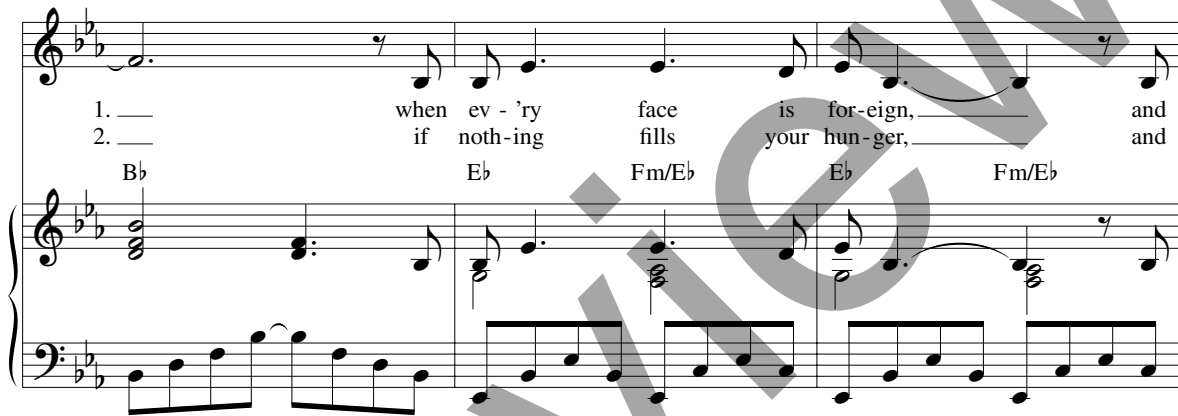
1. all the roads you walk a-long seem strange,  
2. fool-ish ways and youth-ful days are done,

Eb Cm Gm Ab Fm/Eb Fm/C



1. — when ev-'ry face is for-eign, and  
2. — if noth-ing fills your hun-ger, and

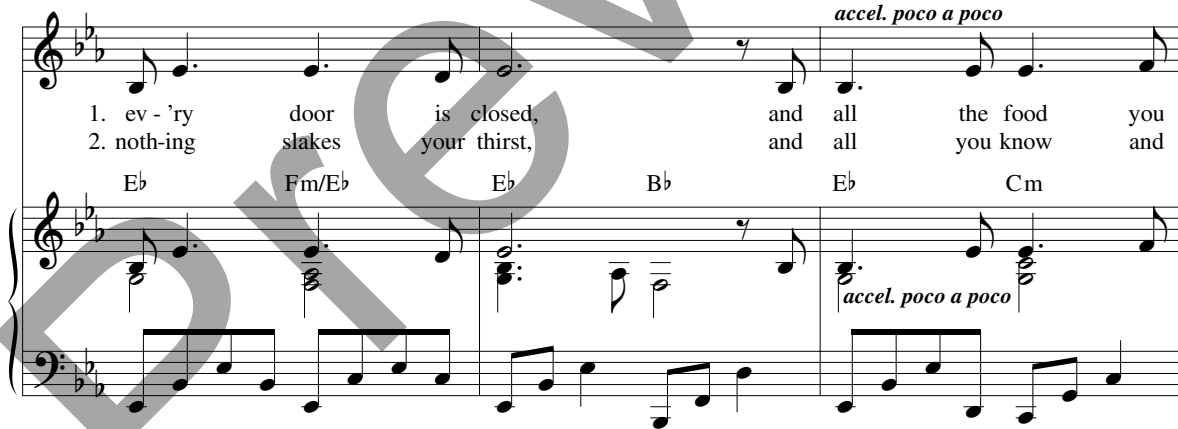
Bb Eb Fm/Eb Eb Fm/Eb



1. ev-'ry door is closed, and all the food you  
2. noth-ing slakes your thirst, and all you know and

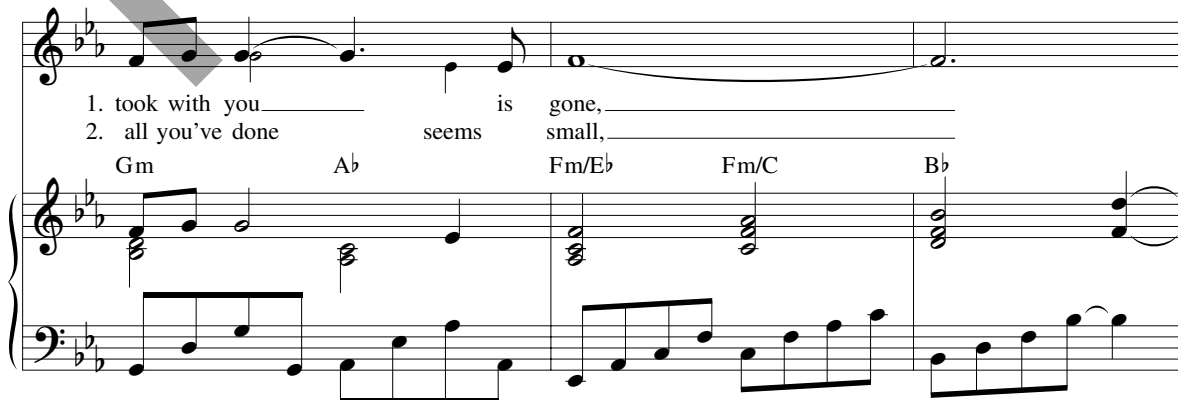
Eb Fm/Eb Eb Bb Eb Cm

*accel. poco a poco*



1. took with you is gone,  
2. all you've done seems small,

Gm Ab Fm/Eb Fm/C Bb



§ REFRAINS: (♩ = ca. 120)  
(a tempo)

Ref. 1, 3 Come home where the wel - come runs to greet you.  
Ref. 2 Let go of the food that fails to feed you.

1, 3. — Come home to the fire that warms your  
2. — Let go of the drink that dulls your

1, 3. soul. Re - turn to the  
2. heart. Let go of the

1, 3. soil that bore your in - fant steps. }  
2. works that can - not ease your pain. } Re -

*decel. poco a poco*

*decel. poco a poco*

Chords: Eb, Gm, Ab, Fm, Bb, Eb, Cm, Fm, Bb, Ab, Bb, G, Cm

1-3. turn to where I wait for you. Come

Ab Fm Bb

1 (♩ = ca. 92) to Verse 2

1. home. 2. Or if

1 (♩ = ca. 92) Eb Cm Fm Bb7sus4 Bb to Verse 2

2 accel. to Verse 3 Final (♩ = ca. 98)

2. home. 3. A 3. home. Come

2 Eb to Verse 3 Final (♩ = ca. 98) Eb Ab

3. home. \_\_\_\_\_ Come home. \_\_\_\_\_

*rit.* *Fine*

Fm Bb Eb *rit.* *Fine*

VERSE 3: (♩ = ca. 120)

3. ban - quet a - waits. I will fill you a -

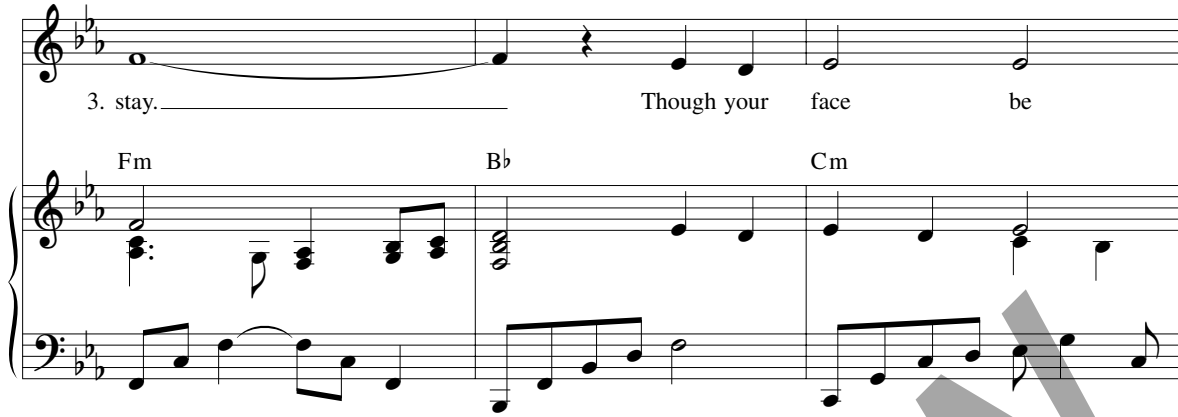
Cm Bb Db

3. gain, and un - til you re - turn, I will

Eb Fm Eb

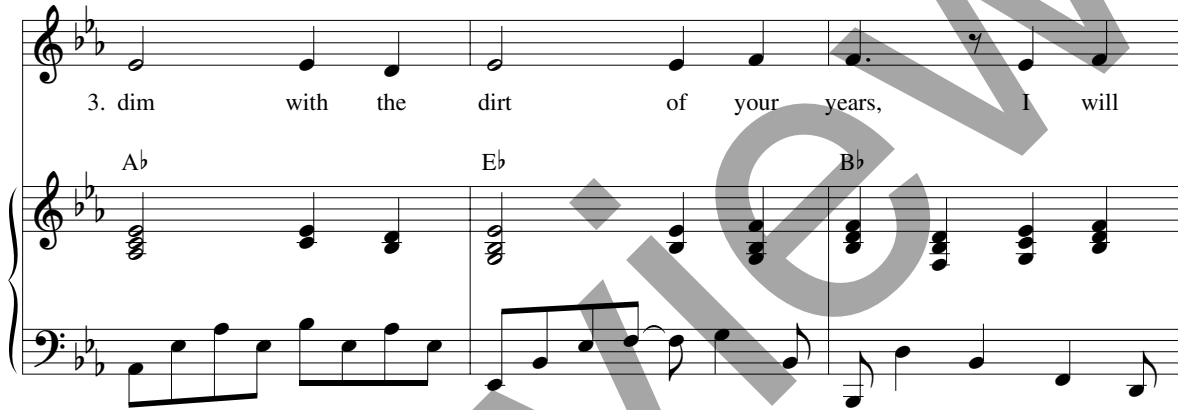
3. stay. \_\_\_\_\_ Though your face be

Fm Bb Cm



3. dim with the dirt of your years, I will

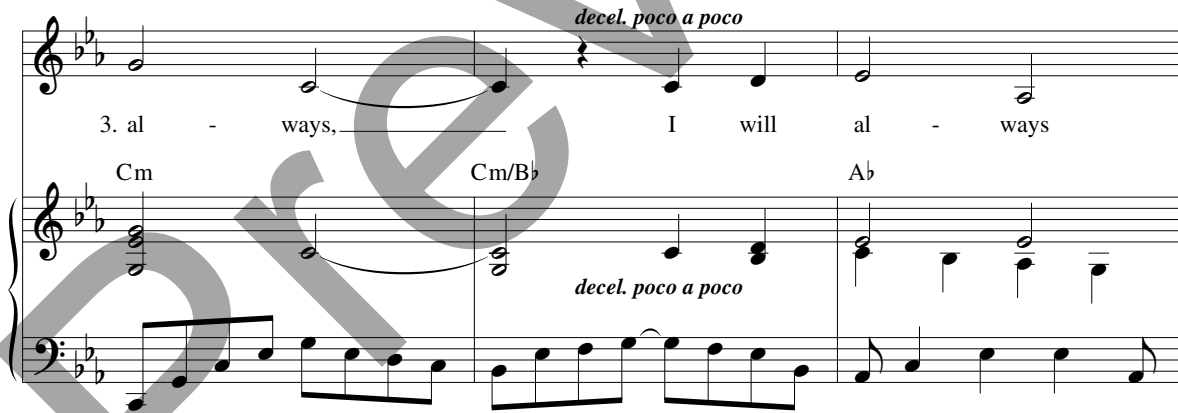
Ab Eb Bb



3. al - ways, I will al - ways

Cm Cm/Bb Ab

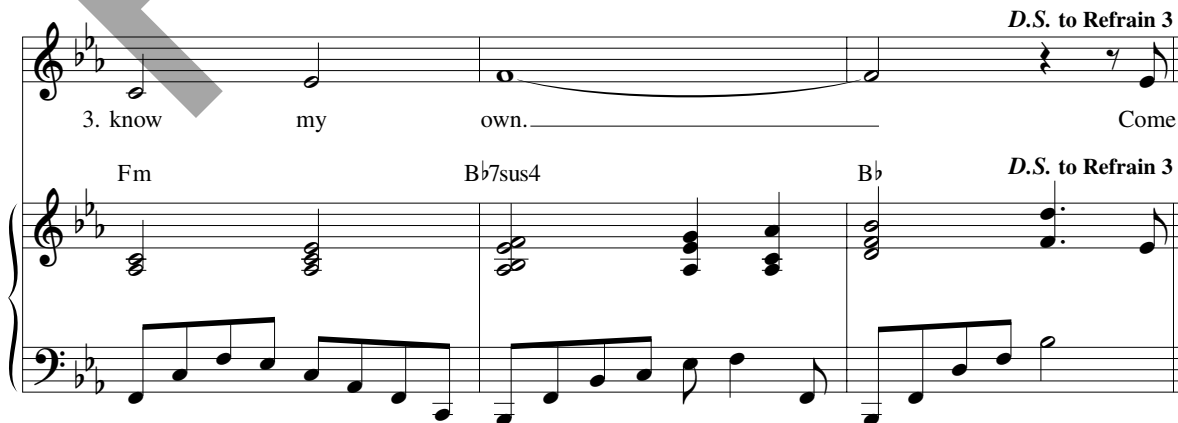
*decel. poco a poco*



3. know my own. \_\_\_\_\_ Come

Fm Bb7sus4 Bb

*D.S. to Refrain 3*



# Come Home

(Guitar/Vocal)

Inspired by Luke 15  
and a reflection of Marie Schwan, CSJ

Bob Dufford, S. J.

INTRO: (♩ = ca. 88)

Capo 1: (D) Eb (Em/D) Fm/Eb \*(D) Eb (Em/D) Fm/Eb (D) Eb (Em/D) Fm/Eb

(Keyboard)

VERSES 1, 2: (♩ = ca. 88)

(A7sus4) Bb7sus4 (A) Bb rit. (D) Eb (a tempo) (Em/D) Fm/Eb \*(D) Eb (Em/D) Fm/Eb

1. When all your limbs are wear - y, and  
 (2. Or if) life has lost its lus - ter, and

(D) Eb (Em/D) Fm/Eb (D) Eb (A) Bb (D) Eb (Bm) Cm

1. all your laugh - ter stilled, and all the roads you  
 2. glo - ry fades with time, and fool - ish ways and

(F#m) Gm (G) Ab (Em/D) Fm/Eb (Em/B) Fm/C (A) Bb (D) Eb (Em/D) Fm/Eb

1. walk a - long seem strange, when ev - 'ry face is  
 2. youth - ful days are done, if noth - ing fills your

\*(D) Eb (Em/D) Fm/Eb (D) Eb (Em/D) Fm/Eb (D) Eb (A) Bb

1. for - eign, and ev - 'ry door is closed, and  
 2. hun - ger, and noth - ing slakes your thirst, and

(D) Eb (Bm) Cm (F#m) Gm (G) Ab (Em/D) Fm/Eb (Em/B) Fm/C

*accel. poco a poco*

1. all the food you took with you is gone,  
 2. all you know and all you've done seems small,

© 2002, Robert J. Dufford, S.J. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

\*Possible fingering for this progression:

Em/D D

**REFRAINS:** (♩ = ca. 120)

(A) B $\flat$  (D) E $\flat$  (F $\sharp$ m) Gm (G) A $\flat$   
*(a tempo)*

1. \_\_\_ **Ref. 1, 3** Come home where the wel-come runs to greet you. \_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_ **Ref. 2** Let go of the food that fails to feed you. \_\_\_

(Em) Fm (A) B $\flat$  (D) E $\flat$  (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm

1, 3. \_\_\_ Come home to the fire that warms your soul. \_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_ Let go of the drink that dulls your heart. \_\_\_

(A) B $\flat$  (G) A $\flat$  (A) B $\flat$  (F $\sharp$ ) G

1, 3. \_\_\_ Re - turn to the soil that bore your in - fant  
 2. \_\_\_ Let go of the works that can - not ease your

(Bm) Cm (G) A $\flat$  (Em) Fm (A) B $\flat$   
*decel. poco a poco*

1, 3. steps. } Re - turn to where I wait for you. \_\_\_ Come  
 2. pain. }

1 (♩ = ca. 92)  
 (D) E $\flat$  (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm (A7sus4) B $\flat$ 7sus4 (A) B $\flat$  to Verse 2

1. home. 2. Or if

2 (D) E $\flat$  *accel.* to Verse 3 **Final** (♩ = ca. 98) (D) E $\flat$  (G) A $\flat$

2. home. 3. A 3. home. \_\_\_ Come

(Em) Fm (A) B $\flat$  *rit.* (D) E $\flat$  *Fine*

3. home. \_\_\_ Come home. \_\_\_



VERSES 3: (♩ = ca. 120)

(Bm) Cm (A) B♭ (C) D♭ (D) E♭

3. ban - quet a - waits. I will fill you a - gain, and un -

(Em) Fm (D) E♭ (Em) Fm

3. til you re - turn, I will stay.

(A) B♭ (Bm) Cm (G) A♭ (D) E♭

3. — Though your face be dim with the dirt of your

(A) B♭ (Bm) Cm (Bm/A) Cm/B♭ *decel. poco a poco* (G) A♭

3. years, I will al - ways, I will al - ways

(Em) Fm (A7sus4) B♭7sus4 (A) B♭ **D.S. to Refrain 3**

3. know my own. Come

# Composer Notes

**Imagery/Meaning** *Come Home* is based on the images of Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11–32 about a man who had two sons. It is an invitation to return to God, the source of our life. For some, that journey begins in a life that feels like a train wreck, as in the story of the younger son. For others, the journey starts when life probably looks pretty good from the outside: a successful, in control, law-abiding nice guy. But on the inside, life has become rote and pale. Such people find themselves sitting in judgment over others, at least in their minds, and condemning them, as did the older son. But the father, prodigal in his love, goes out to each son with the exact response each one needs, and beckons them both to come inside, to come home.

**Highlights** The terms “verse” and “refrain” are used loosely simply to indicate different parts of the song's structure. Verses one and two depict the current state of the journey of each son. These verses should give the feel of plodding and being lost. The refrains need to be full of energy, life and promise. The energy of the refrains should reach its high point at the third to last measure, “wait for you,” and then come down quickly from there to a very tender “come home.” In contrast, verse three continues the feel of the preceding refrain. Its highlight is the repeat of “always,” and it should connote the total commitment of God unconditionally to accept the returning child.

**Performance Suggestions** The keys to the performance of this song are the tempo changes moving between verse one and verse two and the refrain. Because verse three keeps the energy of the refrain, the preceding refrain's “come home” should hint at the slow down of the first refrain, but then should pick up the tempo immediately at the word “home.”

The last three times “come home” is heard should start sounding like echoes, getting quieter each time.

**Liturgical Usage** This piece is good for penance services and retreat reflections on God's mercy.

— *Bob Dufford, S.J.*

Preview

# Assembly Edition

## COME HOME

Bob Dufford, S.J.

Verses 1, 2

1. When— all your limbs are wear-y, and all your  
 2. Or if life has lost its lus-ter, and glo-ry

1. laugh-ter and the roads you  
 2. fades with time, and fool-ish ways— and

1. walk a-long seem strange, when ev-'ry face is  
 2. youth-ful days are done, if noth-ing fills your

1. for-eign, and ev-'ry door is closed, and  
 2. hun-ger, and noth-ing slakes your thirst, and

1. all the food you took with you— is gone, Ref. 1, 3 Come  
 2. all you know and all you've done seems small, Ref. 2 Let

Refrains

1, 3. home where the wel-come runs to greet you. Come  
 2. go of the food that falls to feed you. Let

Text: inspired by Luke 15 and a reflection of Marie Schwan, CSJ. Text and music © 2002, Robert J. Dufford, S.J. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

## COME HOME (Continued)

1, 3. home to the fire that warms your soul. Re-turn to the  
 2. go of the drink that dulls your heart. Let go of the

1, 3. soil that bore your in-fant steps. { Re - turn to where I  
 2. works that can-not ease your pain. }

1-3. wait for you. Come home. 1 2 to Verse 2

2. home. 3. home. Come home. 2 to Verse 3

3. A ban-quet a-waits. I will fill you a-gain, and un-  
 3. til you re-turn, I will stay. Though your face be

3. dim with the dirt of your years, I will al-ways, to Refrain 3  
 3. I will al-ways know my own. Come

For reprint permissions, please visit [OneLicense.net](http://OneLicense.net) or contact us at 1-800-663-1501.