I went to John Darley’s funeral today

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Abstract

went to John’s funeral today few people there little to say guess janitors aren’t really people least not important anyway...
i went to john darley’s funeral today . . .

—terry gogerty

went to John’s funeral today
  few people there
  little to say
guess janitors aren’t really people
least not important anyway

Missed John’s jingling keys today
  doors once opened
  locked to stay
guess janitors aren’t really people
least not important anyway

thought I heard John’s crackling voice today
always had cussed
tried to pray
guess janitors aren’t really people
least not important anyway

saw John’s long string tie today
  still sweat sealed
  never will fray
guess janitors aren’t really people
least not important anyway

John looked up at me today
never could smile
    only laughed at his jokes

sort of simple
  gray eyes
never said much
only jingled his keys
Fall, 1968

just a janitor
always let me in
never locked me out

yes, I went to John Darley's funeral today
    went up to him,
looked sorta peaceful

put his silver string tie 'round his neck
    cinched up the little green stone
    “up tight to hold this damn shirt collar”

slipped his keys into his hand
    might need 'em if he wants to leave

he always let me in
    never locked me out
they say janitors aren't really people
least not important anyway