

About...

Build your throne

...how and why it was written

Like quite a number of my songs, this was written because I was at a loss for a song that would respond to a biblical passage we were focussing on at church. (One of the great blessings of spending a number of years in the Anglican church was how often this happened when following the lectionary and the resulting discipline of using specific scriptures to help form that week's worship set .)

I was leading worship at a service where the focus passage was from Hebrews 12, and I wanted to respond to this but was at something of a loss. There was one song, which I love, by David Ruis which takes in some of this scripture (*Shake the heavens*) – but I wanted to go somewhere a bit different, and wasn't entirely sure this song would be accessible to all of my congregation.

So I wrote build your throne and we used it that week, and in many subsequent worship times to express something of the incredible mystery of what happens when we worship, and how we experience God's presence, as he comes to inhabit our praise.

...how, where and when it could be used

This song works very well congregationally, and is flexible in terms of pace, key and context. We have used it to open worship, or in very intimate times. We even experimented in advent with using a free-form version of the refrain from *O come, o come Emmanuel* as a leader into the song.

...its place on the journey to where world and worship meet

Fundamentally, this is simply a song celebrating the incredible gift of access to God and his presence, and helping us to express our hunger for more of him, and that he would be glorified in how we praise, and in how we live.

I think however that there are resonances of a key perspective and theology that needs to be in place if we are to value what is beyond our church walls – a moving away from a sense that the church is the building or that holy ground is restricted in any sense – 'everywhere we stand is holy' and God's presence is not about 'a temple or a building' but is truly incarnational – willing to dwell with us despite our brokenness and shame.