

About...

## Come Prince of Peace

### ...how and why it was written

This song was written spontaneously during a time of intercessory worship for world peace, particularly focused on the Middle East, parts of Asia, the UK and the US.

On 2 May 2011 I opened iGoogle and was astonished to see the newsfeed from the BBC reporting the death of Osama bin Laden, following a raid in Pakistan. I didn't know how to feel, particularly when I learnt that his 12-year-old daughter witnessed the shooting, and when I read the rhetoric of UK and US leaders expressing how welcome this news would be for people in their countries.

How are we supposed to respond in situations like this? We cannot, as Christians, 'welcome' the death of anyone – death is the enemy of love whoever it comes to. There is of course a time for justice, but mercy should always triumph – and we should be more than careful in judging others – for judgment is God's.

And what happens when people get caught in cycles of violence and hatred that looks to have no end?

Around ten days earlier we had posted a blog article on praying for oppressors during Holy week – and so our minds were full of this alongside Jesus' teaching of costly grace - loving enemies, blessing persecutors and acting as peacemakers.

All we could think of in the confused mess of international mixed motives, death, rumour and fear was peace – the God of peace who promises to bring peace when we allow him to transform our hearts and minds.

And so, in a time of worship, this song came to life out of the background thoughts – a heartfelt prayer for peace.

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

This is a meditative spontaneous prayer song and would be best used to aid personal prayer and reflection, or to stimulate, or provide context for, a time of prayer. You could play the recorded track, or perform the song live before, or during a time of prayer for peace.

There is also a written prayer based on it that could be used congregationally – see [www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-prayer](http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-prayer)

You could obviously use it to pray for other situations of conflict, but if you are praying about the Middle East, US and UK, you might like to use our visual prayer map [PPT slide](#) or [printable PDF](#) alongside this song.

(Songs more suitable for congregations to sing on the same theme include 'I dare to pray' – see [www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-songs](http://www.thesanctuarycentre.org/whereworldandworshipmeet-songs) )

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

It's easy to see what is outward-focused about this song. Its focus is intercessory, international and cries out for a radical change of heart that we desperately need God's help to achieve.

But, it is also deeply personal – it is about recognising that every time something happens on the world stage, we have a choice in who we will serve – ourselves, our prejudices and our agendas, our desire for payback – or the Prince of Peace.