

About...

He is risen

...how and why it was written

After a couple of years searching out, or writing songs to 'plug theological gaps' for the evening congregation of the church I led at in St Albans, I felt the desire to bring some freshness to our core gospel songs.

In recent years there have been very many beautiful and effective worship songs written about the cross, the majority of which focus on the pain and cost of Jesus' sacrifice. Some also cover this alongside the triumph and glory of the resurrection. However, there are considerably less which focus more centrally on the resurrection and/or the ascension.

I was inspired by the concept of the empty cross, and the provocative idea that the absence of something was the signal of such joy, and so I wrote this song for my church. We sang it often and found it uplifting, and a helpful companion in our folders to more upbeat resurrection songs like Tim Hughes' Happy Day.

Although it follows the standard verse and chorus format of a more modern song, the patterned lyrics, suspended chords, and steady feel give it a slightly hymn-like feel, so it works well as a transition between hymns and choruses.

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

This is an effective congregational song which people find uplifting and easy to learn. It also works well in A, as well as the original Bb, which makes the song easier to play, and also creates a brighter feel.

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

This song is not really connected to justice issues in the conscious way that so many of my other songs are. But of course, focussing our attention on the cross, and resurrection is the centre for our whole lives. Through it we begin to glimpse just how much God loves a broken world, and just how much reason there is to hope, and serve, to see it transformed – Jesus has done it all.