

About...

Your family (alt Your world)

...how and why it was written

For several months I helped set up a new approach to all age worship at my old church in St Albans.

As part of this the then children's minister and myself wanted to come up with a list of around 20-30 songs which would resonate to adults as well as children and would cover a wide theological range.

I had already struggled so much to find relevant songs on unity just for adults at the evening service, so I wasn't holding up much hope for all-age options, especially given the subject is not necessarily that easy to explain.

And at the same time we were also looking for songs about loving the world through service, seeking justice for the poor, and evangelism.

one morning I decided to work on a couple of songs to meet these needs, but in the end they ended up being one with alternative words to cover both needs – quite useful in songs that we knew wouldn't be used quite so often as general praise and adoration ones in what was already only a once a month slot.

In the end we only used this once – in the unity context - but reactions were really positive, and people picked up the simple tune quickly.

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

This song works well in congregational worship and is really well suited to all ages – it isn't a children's song however, and could work just for adults as a more literal and less conceptual alternative to a song like *We are in Christ*.

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

If we want to change the way the church thinks about loving each other and the world, we need to actively seek that by stressing a theology of love that people remember. And if we want to build for the future, it's vital we start finding ways of expressing these ideas not just as central theological ideas for adults to learn, but for the next generation to learn as instinctive alongside other core doctrines, stories and spiritual disciplines.