

TEMPLE WORSHIP

A *lifestyle* of worship

Who we are, why we do what we do, and what it looks like to host the presence of God together.

THAT ALL WOULD KNOW HIM

What is presence?

At Temple we say *God's presence is our priority*. It's the first of our four values and it's why we gather. When we talk about presence we don't mean the atmosphere in the room, the lighting or how good the mix sounds. Presence is a person. The Holy Spirit.

We host the presence of God.
Presence is communion with the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament, God's presence was tied to a place. A tent, an ark, and then a building in Jerusalem. One man, one day a year, went behind the curtain. When Jesus died that curtain was torn from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51) and the way in was opened for everyone. Now, by the Spirit, God's presence lives in his people.

WHY WE'RE CALLED TEMPLE

Paul's word for it is *naos*. Not the outer courts, but the inner room where the glory sat. ***"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"*** **(1 Corinthians 3:16)**. We don't go to a building to find his presence. We carry it in, together, every Sunday.



So presence is not energy we create. It is a connection with a person, and everything we do on a Sunday is about making room for people to meet him.

> ***"Abide in me, and I in you."*** **JOHN 15:4 (ESV)**

Presence, not performance.

Presence is not the atmosphere.
Presence is connection with the Holy Spirit.

Performance is about what people see. Presence is about what God sees. When we gather, the aim is not to impress the room but to meet with God. A heart that is fully his carries more weight than the tightest harmony or the biggest voice in the room.
God isn't impressed by our ability. He is drawn to our surrender.

IT IS NEVER A SHOW

Everything we do, the music, the mix, the lights, the set list, exists for one reason: to make room for a real encounter with God. The moment it becomes about us, we've lost the plot.

Why the team faces each other

At Temple the worship team doesn't stand in a line facing the room. They face in, towards each other. In **Revelation 4** John sees the throne, and everything in that room, the elders, the living creatures, every voice, is arranged around God. He is the centre and all the worship rises towards him.

Facing in does two things. It takes the pressure to perform off the team, and it takes the spotlight off the team, so the room looks past them and sees *Jesus*. Nobody in the building is the focal point. He is. Our aim is that not one bit of the attention that belongs to Christ ends up on us.

SEE ALSO: ISAIAH 6:1-4, REVELATION 4:1-11 (ESV)

THE THRONE ROOM POSTURE

Close your eyes if it helps. Picture it as just you and the Lord. Talk to him plainly.
You are not a spectator. You are a participant.

What is worship?

Worship is giving something its true worth. The old English is *worth-ship*. It looks like reverence, devotion, honour and praise, and it comes out of us in a hundred different ways.

WORSHIP IS

Our response to knowing who God is.

> *"God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."* JOHN 4:24

Not striving and not performing. A heart open to God's love and to his correction.

> *"Search me, O God, and know my heart!"* PSALM 139:23

Obedience. Worship makes room for revelation. It's where God shows you more of who he is.

Time given to God on purpose. It's relational. It's an encounter. It's reverence.

Not just a feeling. It's an awareness that God is near, even on the days you feel nothing at all. He hasn't gone anywhere.

Not just the slow song. Worship is a whole life handed over to the living God.



> *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* HEBREWS 13:5

Why we worship

We don't worship to get God to do something. We worship because of what Jesus has **already done** on the cross, and because we were made for it. Before any of us had a gift, a role or a place on a team, we were made to be *with* him.

WE WORSHIP BECAUSE GOD IS

HOLY

Set apart. Completely pure, with nothing in him that is wrong. There is no one like him.

WITHOUT LIMIT

He is outside of time and outside of restraint. The beginning and the end.

ABOVE ALL

Over everything and in everything. Nothing compares to his power and his glory.

WORTHY

The only living God, and the measure of everything that is good.

UNCHANGING

He has no need to grow, learn or evolve. His word stands.

PERFECT

Complete in himself. He is the only God, and the only standard of goodness.

Who worships?

Everyone. It's a heart posture, and it's a privilege every created thing shares. Not just the worship team on a Sunday, and not just the people who can sing. Everyone in the room, and everything that has breath.

> *"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD!"* **PSALM 150:6**

> *"All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."* **REVELATION 15:4**

> *"All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD."* **PSALM 22:27**

> *"A God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones."* **PSALM 89:7**

Ways we worship

The Bible doesn't only tell us to worship, it shows us how, and a lot of it is physical. These are not suggestions. They are invitations to bring your **whole body** into it, not just your head. If it's in the Bible, it's allowed at Temple.

LIFT YOUR HANDS

PSALM 134:2 · PSALM 63:4

An act of surrender, or of celebrating a win. Both are worship.

CLAP YOUR HANDS

PSALM 47:1

All peoples, the psalm says. Not just the ones with rhythm.

SHOUT

PSALM 100:1

A joyful noise. It doesn't have to be in tune to count.

DANCE

PSALM 149:3

Praise with dancing, with the tambourine and the lyre. David did it in front of the whole city.

BOW OR KNEEL

PSALM 95:6 · PHIL. 2:10-11

Every knee will bow at his name. We get to do it first, on purpose.

LEAP FOR JOY

LUKE 6:23

Jesus' own words. Rejoice in that day and leap, because the reward is real.

PLAY INSTRUMENTS

PSALM 150:3-5

Trumpet, strings, pipe, cymbals. Your instrument is a voice in the room, so play it to him.

SING NEW SONGS

PSALM 96:1

Sing to the Lord a new song. He is still writing them through his people.

STAND IN AWE

HEB. 12:28-29 · PSALM 33:8

Reverence and awe, because our God is a consuming fire. Stillness is worship too.



The gathering & the secret place

CORPORATE WORSHIP

Corporate worship is the body gathered to exalt God as one. It is not spectating. It is an **offering**. Think of Israel at Jericho. It wasn't the priests or the musicians alone. The whole people, gathered around one God and one instruction, shouted together, and the walls came down. Every expression each person brings adds to what is happening in the room.

> *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."*
> MATTHEW 18:20

You are not a spectator. You are a participant.



THE SECRET PLACE

The secret place is your **private devotion**, your hidden walk with God. It's where you sit with your Bible and learn who he is, where you talk to him in prayer, and where you bring him praise through song, or dance, or however it comes out of you.

This is where God deals with the things in your heart. It is one-on-one, seeking his face and leaning in to hear his voice, with the door shut and the phone face down. Some days it will feel like Moses in the Most Holy Place. Some days it will feel like a whisper. Both are real.

> *"But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret."* MATTHEW 6:6

CORPORATE WORSHIP WITHOUT THE SECRET PLACE IS PERFORMANCE. THE SECRET PLACE WITHOUT CORPORATE WORSHIP IS ISOLATION.

Together they make a believer who is rooted, alive in the Spirit, and who carries something real into the room on a Sunday.

Starting points for your secret place

1 **Make a space.** Decide where your secret place is and what it looks like. Set it up as if you're hosting someone you love, because you are.

2 **Ask him what belongs there.** Your Bible, a journal, a candle, a playlist. Let him lead even this bit.

3 **Have a day of listening.** Instead of filling the time with words, be still and let him speak first.

4 **Take a day to fast.** Fasting is worship. It sets your appetite so that you want God more than anything else on the menu.

5 **Pick one expression and do it.** Put a song on in your prayer time and respond with your body. Hands up, on your knees, dancing, or standing still in awe.

6 **On a Sunday, look at no one but him.** Try an expression you haven't before. Push past the awkwardness and pray, "Lord, more of you and less of me."

What this means for us

The presence of God is not for the people on the rota. It's for everyone in the room. Being part of Temple is not about your gift or your role on a Sunday. It's about being a worshipper first. So a few things we hold each other to:

DON'T COME EMPTY

What we carry into the room on a Sunday was built through the week. Secret place first.

IF YOU'RE BREATHING, YOU'RE QUALIFIED

You are not a spectator. You are a participant. Wherever you're serving, when we worship, you're in it.

THE SONG BELONGS TO THE HOUSE

Not the stage. God didn't come for the best sound. He came for one sound.

WE CARRY IT IN

Together. Every Sunday. Nobody in the room is the focal point. He is.