



Opening Prayer

Lord, you meet us wherever we are—in cathedrals and community centres, in concert halls and lounge rooms. Help us recognise the holy ground beneath our feet and prepare both the physical spaces and the sacred spaces of our hearts. Make us people who carry your presence wherever we go. Amen.



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Scripture Reading

Exodus 3:5 – "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Romans 8:15 – "...you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'"

Devotional Thought

Growing up in New Zealand, some of my most powerful encounters with God happened in the most unlikely places—youth group meetings in church halls that smelled like old carpet. Camp sites where the climate would be freezing but the warmth of God's presence kept us never wanting to stop singing His praises. I remember being in outdoor worship nights, where the PA kept cutting out, but we still kept on singing our hearts out, and jam sessions in garage-sized spaces where we could barely fit everyone in.

But I've also had the privilege to lead people in worship in stunning venues— beautiful churches with perfect acoustics, conference centres that cost more than most people's lifetime salary. Here's what I've discovered: God's presence isn't dependent on production value, but the physical environment matters.

Where we gather can shape how we encounter God. The venue, the acoustics, the lighting, even how the chairs are arranged—these elements either enhance worship or create barriers to it. As ministry leaders, we're not just musicians; we're curators of sacred space. So we use the spaces we gather in for worship to do two things: firstly, remove all distractions so that people can encounter God, and secondly, clarify the invitation for people to offer their worship to God.

But here's the more profound truth: even more important than the physical space is our understanding of our place in Christ. We're not performers desperately trying to earn approval—we're beloved children who've been invited to co-create moments for encounter with our Father. To make room for Him to move.

When I have the honour of stepping onto any platform now, whether it's a massive gathering or a smaller cluster of people, I try to remember that I'm standing on holy ground. Not because the architecture is blessed or the building is ancient, but because wherever God's people gather in his name, he shows up.

The most sacred space we prepare isn't the venue—it's our own hearts.

Reflection and Application

Personal Reflection Questions:

- How does your awareness of the physical space (venue, acoustics, atmosphere) influence how you prepare to lead worship? Do you see environmental challenges as obstacles or opportunities for God to show up differently?
- What does it look like for you to prepare your heart as a sacred space? What clutter (worry, pride, distraction) needs to be cleared out?
- How does remembering your identity as God's beloved child (not his employee) change the way you approach leading worship?

This Week's Challenge: For the Physical Space: If possible, visit the inHabit venue beforehand. Walk the space. Pray over it. Ask God to help you understand how to steward that particular environment well.

For Your Heart Space: Create a simple daily practice this week of "heart preparation":

- Morning: Ask God to make your heart a place where his presence feels at home
- Before rehearsals/practice: Take 60 seconds to remember whose you are before focusing on what you're doing
- Evening: Reflect on moments during the day when you sensed God's presence in ordinary spaces

Practical Application: Consider one practical way you can improve the physical environment for worship in your church or ministry—perhaps it's arriving early to pray over the space, being intentional about sound check, or even just helping set up the space with a spirit of preparation rather than obligation.

Daily Playlist for Reflection:

- "Inhabit" - Lakewood
- "Be Still and Know" - Housefires
- "Make Room" - Every Nation Music
- "Our Father" - Bethel

Closing Prayer

Father, we thank you that you're not confined to buildings or limited by our production budgets. You meet us in hired halls and holy cathedrals alike. As we prepare for inHabit, we ask you to make every space sacred—the venue, the green room, even the car park conversations. Transform our hearts into places where your presence feels welcomed and honoured. Help us prepare both the physical spaces and the sacred spaces with equal intentionality. And remind us daily that we don't worship as performers seeking approval, but as your beloved children coming home to you. Amen.