

# Heart of Worship

Words & Music by Matt Redman © 1999 all rights reserved

*D* *A* *Em7* *E7sus4* *A* *Asus4* *A*

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come.

*D* *A* *Em7* *E7sus4* *A* *Asus4* *A*

Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless Your heart.

## REFRAIN

*Em7* *D* *A*

I'll bring You more than a song,

*A* *Em7* *D/F#* *A* *Asus4* *A*

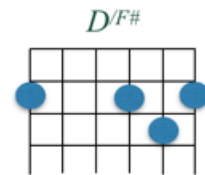
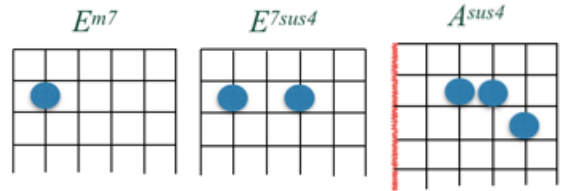
For a song in itself is not what You have required.

*Em7* *D/F#* *A*

You search much deeper within,

*A* *Em7* *D* *Asus4* *A*

Through the way things appear; You're looking into my heart.



*D* *A*

I'm coming back to the heart of worship,

*Em7* *Em* *Asus4* *A* *D*

And it's all about You, it's all about You, Je- sus.

*D* *A*

I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it;

*Em7* *G* *Asus4* *A* *D*

When it's all about You, it's all about You, Je- sus.

*D* *A* *Em7* *E7sus4* *A* *Asus4* *A*

King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve.

*D* *A* *Em7* *E7sus4* *A* *Asus4* *A*

Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, every single breath.

## REFRAIN

# History

Matt Redman is a prolific song writer with many Christian artists performing his works. He says the story behind “The Heart of Worship” in particular is a personal reminder that, “I’m just a little songwriter—and a pretty foolish one at that!”



Matt Redman  
Photograph from [www.365daysofinspiringmedia.com/](http://www.365daysofinspiringmedia.com/)

The song dates back to the late 1990s, born from a period of apathy within Matt’s home church, Soul Survivor, in Watford, England. The congregation was struggling to find meaning in its prodigious outpouring of music at that time.

“There was a dynamic missing, so the pastor did a pretty brave thing,” he recalls. “He decided to get rid of the sound system and band for a season, and we gathered together with just our voices. His point was that we’d lost our way in worship, and

the way to get back to the heart would be to strip everything away.” Reminding his church family to be producers in worship, not just consumers, the pastor, Mike Pilavachi, asked, “When you come through the doors on a Sunday, what are you bringing as your offering to God?”

Matt says the question initially led to some embarrassing silence, but eventually people broke into a cappella songs and heartfelt prayers, encountering God in a fresh way. “**The Heart of Worship**’ simply describes what occurred.”

Redman remembers writing the song quickly in his bedroom soon after the church’s journey together, with no grand intentions, by any means, for it to become an international anthem. He viewed the words simply as his personal, subjective response to what he was learning about worship.

When Matt shared “The Heart of Worship” with Pilavachi, the pastor suggested making a few small adjustments to the lyrics so any member of the church could relate to it as well.

Amazed by how God has since taken the song around the world for His purposes, the songwriter smiles in regard to his own lack of foresight. “It nearly didn’t go any further than my bedroom. But I love that...”

Matt says he likes all of the interpretations of the song from other artists. Even more encouraging, he says, is when other pastors get in touch to let him know how God has used the song to take their congregations through a situation similar to the one his church experienced.

*See more of David Schrader’s article on this story at [www.crosswalk.com/](http://www.crosswalk.com/)*



Mike Pilavachi,  
Senior Pastor of Soul  
Survivor Church  
Photograph from  
*Wikipedia*