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# Top 5 Chord Progressions Every Worship Pianist Should Know

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# Welcome & Introduction

**Hi there — I'm so glad you're here.**

If you're new to worship piano, you're in the right place. Learning to play can feel overwhelming at first, especially when you're not sure where to start. That's why I created this guide: to help you take your very first steps with simple, beginner-friendly chord progressions that sound beautiful and show up in tons of worship songs.

You don't need to read sheet music or know all the music theory — you just need a willing heart and a few basic chords to begin worshipping from the keys. Let this be your starting point.

Let's take it slow, stay encouraged, and start playing with purpose.

# Overview & Contents

## What's Inside This Guide

Discover the 5 essential chord progressions every worship pianist should know — with real song examples, practical beginner tips, and everything you need to start playing with confidence and purpose.

## In this guide, I will show you:

- 01. The 5 Must-Know Worship Chord Progressions**  
Learn the most common chord patterns used in today's worship music — simple, powerful, and beginner-approved.
- 02. Real Worship Song Examples for Each Progression**  
See how each progression is used in popular worship songs so you can start connecting chords to real music right away.
- 03. Practical Tips for Beginners (One Per Progression)**  
Get helpful, encouraging tips designed to make each chord progression easier to understand and play — no theory overload needed.

# 01. The 1–5–6–4 Progression

The 1 - 5 - 6 - 4 progression. This is one of the most popular progressions in worship music — and it sounds amazing with just basic chords. Even if you only know a few notes, this pattern can help you play full songs quickly.

## Getting Started with the 1-5-6-4 Progression:

If you're just starting out on piano, this progression is one of the best places to begin. It's used in countless worship songs and sounds beautiful — even with the most basic chords.

Let's use the Key of C Major as our example (because it's the easiest to start with — no sharps or flats!).

In the C Major scale, the notes are:

C – D – E – F – G – A – B

Each of those notes has a matching chord, and the 1-5-6-4 progression uses these four:

- I (1st) = C Major
- V (5th) = G Major
- vi (6th) = A Minor
- IV (4th) = F Major

So when you put them together, you get:

C – G – Am – F

This pattern repeats beautifully and is found in songs like "Forever" and "What A Beautiful Name"

### How To Start Practicing:

- Play each chord for 4 counts (1–2–3–4... then switch)
- Don't worry about speed — just focus on switching smoothly between chords
- Try singing or humming a worship melody over the chords once you're comfortable

*Need help with the notes and chords in the Key of C?*

Download my **FREE** guide: [Worship Piano Chords & Scales — All 12 Major Keys](#) to learn every chord and scale in simple terms.

# 01. The 1–5–6–4 Progression

## Real Worship Song Examples

### FOREVER – KARI JOBE

#### Chorus

**C**                      **G**  
 Forever, He is glorified  
**Am**                      **F**  
 Forever, He is lifted high  
**C**                      **G**  
 Forever, He is risen  
**Am**                      **F**  
 He is alive; He is alive

### WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME IT IS – HILLSONG

#### Chorus

**C**  
 What a beautiful Name it is  
    **G**  
 What a beautiful Name it is  
                                  **Am**                      **F**  
 The Name of Jesus Christ my King  
    **C**  
 What a beautiful Name it is  
    **G**  
 Nothing compares to this  
                                  **Am**                      **F**  
 What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus

## 02. The 1–4–6–4 Progression

The 1 - 4- 6 - 4 progression. This progression has a steady, comforting feel that flows naturally and works beautifully in both modern and classic worship songs. It's easy to learn and repeat, making it a great choice for building confidence as a beginner. The return to the 4 chord gives it a peaceful, reflective loop that feels perfect for worship.

### Getting Started with the 1-4-6-4 Progression:

This progression creates a gentle, flowing loop that feels natural and worshipful — especially because it ends on the IV chord. Landing on the IV gives you space to pause, reflect, or build, making this pattern perfect for moments of worship that need room to breathe. It also transitions easily into other common progressions, which makes it a powerful tool for spontaneous worship or medleys.

Let's continue using the Key of C Major as our example (because it's the easiest with — no sharps or flats!).

In the C Major scale, the notes are:  
C – D – E – F – G – A – B

Each of those notes has a matching chord, and the 1-4-6-4 progression uses these four:

- I (1st) = C Major
- IV (4th) = F Major
- vi (6th) = A Minor
- IV (4th) = F Major

So when you put them together, you get:  
C – F – Am – F

This pattern repeats beautifully and is found in songs like "Set A Fire" and "Love Came Down"

### How To Start Practicing:

- Play each chord slowly, giving your hands time to adjust
- Let the repeated F chord help you focus on smooth transitions
- Try singing or humming a simple melody over the top

*Need help understanding these chord shapes?*

Download my **FREE** guide: [Worship Piano Chords & Scales — All 12 Major Keys](#) to learn every chord and scale in simple terms.

## 02. The 1–4–6–4 Progression

### Real Worship Song Examples

#### SET A FIRE BY WILL REAGAN

##### Chorus

**C**                      **F**  
 So set a fire down in my soul  
    **Am**  
 That I can't contain and I can't control  
                                  **F**  
 I want more of You God  
                                  **C**  
 I want more of You God

#### LOVE CAME DOWN – BRIAN JOHNSON

##### Chorus

**C**  
 Love came down and rescued me  
**F**  
 Love came down and set me free  
**Am**                      **F**  
 I am Yours, I am forever Yours  
**C**  
 Mountain high or valley low  
**F**  
 I sing out and remind my soul  
**Am**                      **F**  
 I am Yours, I am forever Yours



## 03. The 6–4–1–5 Progression

The 6 - 4 - 1 - 5 progression. This progression starts on the minor chord, giving it a soft, emotional tone — perfect for slower songs or reflective worship moments.

### Getting Started with the 6-4-1-5 Progression:

This progression begins with a gentle, emotional tone and moves with a sense of flow that's perfect for worship moments that build slowly. Ending on the V chord naturally creates a feeling of movement and expectancy, making it easy to loop or transition into other progressions. It works beautifully in verses or reflective moments, allowing room for both quiet worship and gradual dynamic builds.

Let's continue using the Key of C Major as our example (because it's the easiest with — no sharps or flats!).

In the C Major scale, the notes are:

C – D – E – F – G – A – B

Each of those notes has a matching chord, and the 1-4-6-4 progression uses these four:

- vi (6th) = A Minor
- IV (4th) = F Major
- I (1st) = C Major
- V (5th) = G Major

So when you put them together, you get:

Am – F – C – G

This pattern repeats beautifully and is found in songs like “Our God” and “One Thing Remains”

### How To Start Practicing:

- Play each chord slowly — this one's great for building atmosphere.
- Start quiet, and gradually build volume with each loop.
- Use this for verse sections or quiet prayer moments.

*Unsure how to find or build these chords?*

Download my **FREE** guide: [Worship Piano Chords & Scales — All 12 Major Keys](#) to learn every chord and scale in simple terms.



# 03. The 6–4–1–5 Progression

## Real Worship Song Examples

### OUR GOD BY CHRIS TOMLIN

#### Chorus

**Am**

Our God is greater

**F**

Our God is stronger

**C**

**G**

God You are higher than any other

**Am**

Our God is healer

**F**

Awesome in power

**C**

**G**

Our God, Our God

### ONE THING REMAINS BY BETHEL MUSIC

#### Chorus

**Am**

**F**

**C**

**G**

Your love never fails, never gives up, never runs out on me

**Am**

**F**

**C**

**G**

Your love never fails, never gives up, never runs out on me

**Am**

**F**

**C**

**G**

Your love never fails, never gives up, never runs out on me

## 04. The 1–6–4–5 Progression

This progression is smooth, singable, and full of life — making it a great go-to pattern for worship choruses and beginner practice. Its natural flow makes it easy to play and even easier to remember.

### Getting Started with the 1-6-4-5 Progression:

The 1-6-4-5 progression has a timeless, uplifting feel that makes it a favorite in both worship and classic gospel music. It starts on a strong foundation (the I chord), dips into the emotional warmth of the vi chord, opens up with the IV, and drives forward with the V — creating a natural flow that feels inspiring and full of purpose. It's especially helpful for beginners because the movement between chords is smooth, memorable, and easy to repeat. This progression also works wonderfully for song introductions, choruses, and simple instrumental moments when you want to create a steady, worshipful foundation.

Let's continue using the Key of C Major as our example (because it's the easiest with — no sharps or flats!).

In the C Major scale, the notes are:  
C – D – E – F – G – A – B

Each of those notes has a matching chord, and the 1-4-6-4 progression uses these four:

- I (1st) = C Major
- vi (6th) = A Minor
- IV (4th) = F Major
- V (5th) = G Major

So when you put them together, you get:  
C – Am – F – G

This pattern repeats beautifully and is found in songs like “How Great Is Our God” and “Pour My Love”

### How To Start Practicing:

- Try playing each chord as an arpeggio (one note at a time)
- Focus on even timing and a calm, peaceful rhythm
- Use it in prayerful worship or for slow builds

*Need help with the notes and chords?*

Download my **FREE** guide: [Worship Piano Chords & Scales — All 12 Major Keys](#) to learn every chord and scale in simple terms.

# 04. The 1–6–4–5 Progression

## Real Worship Song Examples

### HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD BY CHRIS TOMLIN

#### Chorus:

**C**

How great is our God, sing with me

**Am**

How great is our God, all will see

**F**

**G**

**C**

How great, how great is our God

### AT THE CROSS BY HILLSONG

#### Chorus

**C**

**Am**

At the cross I bow my knee

**F**

Where Your blood was shed for me

**G**

There's no greater love than this

**C**

**Am**

You have overcome the grave

**F**

Your glory fills the highest place

**G**

What can separate me now

# 05. The 1–4–6–5 Progression

Bright, smooth, and full of movement — this progression is perfect for joyful worship and easy for beginners to learn. It flows naturally and sounds great with just a few basic chords.

## Getting Started with the 1-4-6-5 Progression:

The 1-4-6-5 progression has a bright, hopeful feel that makes it perfect for joyful worship songs and energetic choruses. It starts with a strong, worshipful foundation on the I chord, opens wide with the IV, dips into the emotion of the vi, and then lifts again with the V — creating a complete and satisfying musical journey. This pattern is easy for beginners to memorize and play, and because it resolves so naturally, it's great for looping or leading into another section of a song. It's also a great tool for songwriting and spontaneous worship moments because of how open and familiar it feels.

Let's continue using the Key of C Major as our example (because it's the easiest with — no sharps or flats!).

In the C Major scale, the notes are:

C – D – E – F – G – A – B

Each of those notes has a matching chord, and the 1-4-6-5 progression uses these four:

- I (1st) = C Major
- IV (4th) = F Major
- vi (6th) = A Minor
- V (5th) = G Major

So when you put them together, you get:

C – F – Am – G

This pattern repeats beautifully and is found in songs like “This Is Amazing Grace” and “Trading My Sorrows”

### How To Start Practicing:

- Play each chord slowly using whole notes (hold for 4 counts).
- Once you're confident, try adding a light rhythm or tap along with your foot.
- Practice looping the pattern to build muscle memory.

*Need help with the notes and chords?*

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# 05. The 1-4-6-5 Progression

## Real Worship Song Examples

### THIS IS AMAZING GRACE BY PHIL WICKHAM

#### Chorus

**C**  
This is amazing grace

**F**  
This is unfailing love

**Am**  
That You would take my place

**G**  
That You would bear my cross

**C**  
You would lay down Your life

**F**  
That I would be set free

**Am**  
Jesus, I sing for

**G**                      **C**  
All that You've done for me

### TRADING MY SORROWS BY DARRELL EVANS

#### Chorus 1

**C F Am G**  
I'm Trading my sor-rows

**C F Am G**  
I'm trading my shame

**C F Am G C F Am G**  
I'm laying them down for the joy of the lord

**C F Am G**  
I'm trading my sick-ness

**C F Am G**  
I'm Trading my pain

**C F Am G C F Am G**  
I'm laying them down for the joy of the lord

**TIP: each chord gets two counts**

# Final Encouragement

These 5 progressions are the building blocks of hundreds of worship songs. You don't need to learn everything all at once — just take one at a time, practice with grace, and let your heart stay centered on worship.

You're not just learning music — you're building a foundation for leading others into God's presence.

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." – Psalm 150:6

Ready to Keep Going? You don't have to figure this out alone. My online worship piano course is made just for beginners like you — with step-by-step lessons, real worship songs, and guidance to help you grow at your own pace from home.

Visit [worshipiano.com](https://worshipiano.com) to start today. Let's worship together!