

come now is the time to worship lyrics and chords

Come now is the time to worship lyrics and chords serves as a beacon for countless individuals and worship teams seeking to connect with the divine through music. This powerful contemporary worship song, deeply rooted in biblical themes, has become a staple in churches worldwide. Understanding its lyrics and chords is essential for anyone looking to lead or participate in a meaningful worship experience. This comprehensive guide will delve into the lyrical journey of "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship," exploring its theological depth, and provide accessible chord progressions to help you learn and perform this beloved hymn. We will also touch upon its historical context and its enduring impact on modern Christian worship music, ensuring you have all the information needed to embrace this song fully.

- Introduction to "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"
- The Profound Meaning Behind the Lyrics
- Breaking Down the Chord Progressions
- Learning to Play "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"
- Variations and Adaptations for Worship
- The Impact and Legacy of the Song

Understanding "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" Lyrics and Chords

The song "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship," often recognized by its evocative chorus, is a cornerstone of modern worship music. Its simple yet profound message resonates with believers across denominations, fostering an atmosphere of reverence and adoration. This section will lay the groundwork for understanding the song's appeal, focusing on its lyrical content and the fundamental chord structures that make it accessible to musicians of all skill levels. We will explore the core invitation within the lyrics and how the musical arrangement supports and amplifies this message. Understanding these elements is key to appreciating the full impact of this worship anthem.

The Lyrical Heart of the Worship Invitation

The lyrics of "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" are an invitation, a call to gather and offer praise to God. The opening lines, "Come, now is the time to worship, Come, now is the time to give your

heart," immediately set a tone of immediacy and personal commitment. This is not a passive invitation; it is an active call to surrender and to engage in the act of worship. The song emphasizes the presence of God, stating, "Come, just as you are." This powerful declaration offers comfort and reassurance, reminding believers that they do not need to achieve a state of perfection before approaching God. They are welcomed and loved in their current state, with all their imperfections and struggles.

Further into the song, the lyrics speak of God's faithfulness and grace. Phrases like "He is worthy to be praised" and "He is holy, He is holy" underscore the attributes of God that inspire worship. The repetition of "holy" serves to magnify God's perfect nature, separating Him from all else. The song also touches upon the idea of a redeemed people, singing, "He is worthy to be praised, with the host of angels singing / Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty." This imagery connects earthly worship to the heavenly worship described in scripture, particularly in the book of Revelation. The progression of the lyrics moves from a personal invitation to a corporate declaration of God's worthiness and holiness, creating a holistic worship experience.

Exploring the Theological Depth of the Song

Theological insights are woven throughout the fabric of "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship." The central theme revolves around the concept of opportune time for worship, echoing biblical passages that speak of appointed times and seasons for giving God glory. The phrase "now is the time" suggests a present urgency and a recognition that every moment can be an opportunity to connect with the divine. This aligns with the Christian understanding that God's presence is continuous and that believers are called to a perpetual state of worship, not limited to specific services or times.

The emphasis on coming "just as you are" directly addresses themes of grace and unconditional love. It reflects the New Testament message that salvation and acceptance are not earned through works but are freely given through faith in Jesus Christ. This inclusivity is vital for fostering a welcoming environment in worship settings, ensuring that everyone feels they have direct access to God. The song also highlights the inherent worthiness of God, a fundamental tenet of Christian theology. His holiness, power, and loving-kindness are presented as the ultimate reasons for adoration. The inclusion of heavenly worship further reinforces the belief in God's supreme sovereignty and the eternal nature of His glory.

Delving into the "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" Chords

For musicians and worship leaders, understanding the chord progressions of "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" is crucial for effectively leading the song. The beauty of this song lies in its accessibility, often utilizing relatively simple and common chord voicings that can be adapted for various instruments. This section will break down the typical chord structures that form the backbone of this popular worship anthem, making it easier for individuals to learn and perform.

Common Chord Progressions Used

The most frequently used chords in "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" are generally within the keys of G, C, or D major. These keys are popular in congregational singing due to their comfortable vocal ranges for many people. A common progression in the key of G might involve chords like G, C, D, and Em. For instance, the chorus often follows a pattern like:

- G (Come, now is the time to worship)
- D (Come, now is the time to give your heart)
- Em (Come, just as you are)
- C (Come, just as you are)

This cyclical progression creates a sense of movement and anticipation, building towards the declaration of God's worthiness. The Em chord introduces a slight sense of longing or reflection before resolving back to the foundational G or leading into the C chord. This interplay of major and minor chords adds emotional depth to the song.

The verses typically maintain a similar, straightforward approach. A common verse progression in G could be:

- G (I'll rise up...)
- C (I'll rise up...)
- G (And call out...)
- D (And call out...)

This pattern is repeated, providing a stable and predictable framework that allows the lyrics to take center stage. The repetition reinforces the narrative of personal commitment and surrender that the verses convey. The transition from the verse to the chorus is usually smooth, often ending the verse on the D chord, which naturally leads back to the G chord to begin the chorus.

Adapting Chords for Different Instruments

While guitars and pianos are the most common instruments for accompanying "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship," the chord progressions can be adapted for various other instruments. For guitarists, using open chords in keys like G, C, or D is usually the easiest approach. Fingerpicking

patterns or simple strumming can be employed to create a gentle or more powerful feel depending on the desired dynamic. Capos can also be used to transpose the song to a key that best suits the vocalists.

Pianists have more flexibility. They can play the chords as block voicings, arpeggios, or incorporate melodic fills. The bass line can be played by the left hand, typically emphasizing the root note of each chord, while the right hand plays the full chord or a melody. For string instruments like violins or cellos, the chords can be translated into melodic lines or harmonic accompaniments that support the vocal melody. Even brass instruments can adapt by playing the root notes or simple harmonic intervals. The key is to maintain the harmonic integrity of the song while allowing each instrument to contribute in its unique way. The consistent chord structure allows for a wide range of creative interpretations.

Learning and Performing "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"

Mastering "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" involves more than just knowing the lyrics and chords; it requires understanding how to deliver the song with sincerity and passion. This section will provide practical tips and considerations for learning and performing this beloved worship song, ensuring a meaningful experience for both the musicians and the congregation.

Step-by-Step Guide to Learning the Song

Learning "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" can be approached systematically. Begin by familiarizing yourself with the lyrics. Read them aloud, paying attention to the message and the flow. Once the lyrics are understood, focus on the chord progressions. If you are a guitarist or pianist, practice transitioning smoothly between the chords for each section of the song (verses, chorus, bridge if applicable).

Start with a slower tempo. This will allow you to concentrate on accuracy and timing. Listen to recordings of the song to get a feel for the rhythm and the overall mood. Once you are comfortable with the chords and tempo, gradually increase the speed. If you are part of a worship team, practice with other musicians. This helps in developing good listening skills and ensuring that all parts are in sync. Pay attention to dynamics - when to play softly and when to build intensity. The emotional arc of the song is important for conveying its message effectively. Consider breaking down the song into smaller sections and mastering each part before putting them all together.

Tips for Worship Leading

Effective worship leading involves more than just singing and playing. It's about creating an atmosphere where people can connect with God. When leading "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship," focus on maintaining eye contact with the congregation and conveying a genuine sense of worship.

Your facial expressions and body language should reflect the reverence and joy of the song.

- **Start with a clear invitation:** Clearly announce the song and its theme, inviting participation.
- **Set the right tempo and mood:** Begin with a gentle tempo and a soft dynamic to draw people in, gradually building as the song progresses.
- **Encourage congregational singing:** Ensure the melody is clear and that the volume of instruments supports, rather than overwhelms, the voices.
- **Use pauses effectively:** Strategic pauses can create moments of reflection and allow the message of the lyrics to sink in.
- **Be flexible:** Be prepared to adapt the song's intensity and length based on the spiritual atmosphere of the service.
- **Connect with the spiritual message:** Truly believe and embody the lyrics you are singing. Authenticity is key in worship leading.

Remember that the goal is to facilitate worship, not to perform. Your role is to guide the congregation in their response to God's presence.

Variations and Adaptations in Worship Settings

While the core lyrics and chord progressions of "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" remain consistent, churches and worship teams often adapt the song to suit their specific context and style. These adaptations can range from simple tempo changes to more complex instrumental arrangements, all aimed at enhancing the worship experience.

Musical Arrangement Styles

The beauty of "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" lies in its versatility. It can be performed in various musical styles, from intimate acoustic settings to full band arrangements with choirs. In smaller churches or for more contemplative moments, a simple acoustic guitar or piano accompaniment can be very effective. This stripped-down approach allows the lyrics and the vulnerability of the message to shine through.

Conversely, in larger congregations or for more energetic worship services, the song can be amplified with a full band. This might include drums, bass guitar, electric guitars, keyboards, and even orchestral elements. The tempo can be increased, and more powerful strumming or rhythmic patterns can be introduced. Vocal harmonies, both from backing vocalists and the congregation, can add richness and depth to the performance. Some worship teams also incorporate instrumental solos

or improvisations during instrumental breaks, adding a unique flavor to the song while maintaining its essential message. The key is to use instrumentation that supports the lyrical content and enhances the overall worship atmosphere.

Cultural and Denominational Adaptations

Across different cultures and denominations, "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" is embraced and often subtly modified to resonate with local traditions and preferences. In some African churches, for instance, the song might be accompanied by more percussive elements and a more rhythmic vocal delivery, reflecting the vibrant musical heritage of the continent. In Latin American contexts, Spanish translations are common, with the lyrics translated to maintain their theological meaning while fitting the nuances of the Spanish language. The musical arrangement might also incorporate Latin rhythms or instrumentation.

Denominations with a strong tradition of hymnody might present the song with more traditional harmonies or a more structured arrangement, while Pentecostal or Charismatic traditions might encourage more spontaneous expressions of worship alongside the song, such as raising hands or prophetic declarations. Regardless of the specific adaptation, the underlying message of sincere, heartfelt worship remains the unifying element, allowing the song to transcend cultural and denominational boundaries and connect with believers on a universal level.

The Enduring Impact and Legacy of the Song

"Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" has cemented its place as a modern worship classic, leaving an indelible mark on Christian music and congregational worship worldwide. Its simple yet profound message, combined with its accessible musicality, has contributed to its widespread adoption and enduring popularity.

"Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" in Contemporary Worship

Since its release, "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" has become a staple in worship services across countless churches. Its lyrical invitation to personal surrender and its affirmation of God's unconditional acceptance provide a perfect foundation for corporate worship. The song's ability to build in intensity from a gentle plea to a powerful declaration of God's holiness makes it incredibly effective in guiding a congregation through different stages of worship. Many worship leaders find it to be a versatile song that can be used at various points in a service, whether for opening adoration, a time of response, or closing. Its consistent presence in worship music charts and its frequent appearance in worship albums further attest to its significance in the contemporary worship landscape.

Its Influence on Future Worship Music

The success of "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" has undeniably influenced the trajectory of contemporary worship music. Its emphasis on simple, direct, and theologically rich lyrics set a precedent for many songs that followed. The pattern of a personal invitation leading into a corporate declaration of God's attributes became a popular structure for many worship anthems. Furthermore, its accessible chord progressions demonstrated that impactful worship music does not need to be overly complex, encouraging more individuals and smaller worship teams to engage in creating and performing new music. The song's blend of heartfelt sincerity and musical accessibility continues to inspire songwriters and worship leaders, ensuring its legacy will resonate for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main message of the 'Come, Now Is The Time To Worship' lyrics?

The song's core message is an invitation to gather and worship God, emphasizing His presence, power, and worthiness of adoration, urging believers to come before Him with reverence and joy.

Who wrote the lyrics and chords for 'Come, Now Is The Time To Worship'?

The lyrics and chords for 'Come, Now Is The Time To Worship' were written by Brian Doerksen.

What are the common key signatures used for playing 'Come, Now Is The Time To Worship'?

While it can be played in various keys, common and accessible keys for guitar and piano include G Major, C Major, and D Major.

Are there simplified chord versions of 'Come, Now Is The Time To Worship' available?

Yes, many resources offer simplified chord progressions for beginners, often focusing on basic open chords or common guitar/piano voicings.

What is the typical tempo and feel of 'Come, Now Is The Time To Worship'?

The song is generally sung at a moderate to slow tempo, with a worshipful, reverent, and often building feel. It's designed to be contemplative and inviting.

Where can I find reliable chord charts for 'Come, Now Is The Time To Worship'?

Reliable chord charts can be found on popular worship music websites, guitar tab sites, and in printed worship songbooks. Websites like Ultimate Guitar, Chordify, and PraiseCharts are good starting points.

What are some popular worship instruments that accompany 'Come, Now Is The Time To Worship'?

Common instruments include acoustic guitar, piano, electric guitar (often with ambient tones), bass guitar, and drums. Keyboards and strings are also frequently used to create a fuller sound.

Does 'Come, Now Is The Time To Worship' have a specific congregational singing style?

It's typically sung in a congregational, unison, or simple harmony style, encouraging participation from the entire church body. The emphasis is on heartfelt expression rather than complex vocal arrangements.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to the themes and spirit of "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" lyrics and chords, all starting with :

1. *In His Presence: A Devotional Journey*

This book explores the profound experience of connecting with the divine through prayer and contemplation. It delves into the emotional and spiritual benefits of entering a sacred space, much like the worship described in the song. Readers will find meditations and reflections designed to foster a deeper sense of peace and reverence. It encourages a consistent practice of seeking God's presence in everyday life.

2. *The Art of True Worship: Beyond the Hymnal*

This title examines the multifaceted nature of worship, moving beyond mere musical expression to a holistic lifestyle. It dissects the biblical foundations of worship and its implications for personal transformation and community building. The book provides insights into cultivating an authentic heart posture in all aspects of life, mirroring the song's call to worship. It inspires readers to embrace worship as a constant offering.

3. *Whispers of the Sacred: Finding God in Stillness*

This work focuses on the quiet moments where divine communication is most readily received. It offers guidance on developing spiritual disciplines that cultivate attentiveness to God's voice amidst life's noise. The book emphasizes the contemplative aspect of worship, resonating with the "come now" invitation to draw near. It encourages a deeper listening and receptivity to the sacred.

4. *Songs of the Redeemed: A Treasury of Faith*

This compilation gathers hymns and spiritual songs that celebrate redemption and God's faithfulness. It provides the historical and theological context behind these beloved expressions of

faith, highlighting their enduring power. The book aims to inspire a renewed appreciation for the lyrical and musical expressions of praise, similar to the impact of "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship." It serves as a resource for personal reflection and communal singing.

5. The Heart of Adoration: Cultivating Reverence

This book delves into the essential elements that form the core of genuine adoration. It explores the motivations behind worship and how to foster a heart filled with deep respect and awe for God. The title suggests a focus on the internal disposition required for authentic worship, aligning with the song's emphasis on arriving with a willing heart. It offers practical advice for nurturing a spirit of reverence.

6. Echoes of Grace: Experiencing Divine Love

This title explores the transformative power of God's grace and the ways it is experienced through worship. It highlights the comforting and life-giving aspects of divine love, as often expressed in praise songs. The book guides readers to understand and embrace God's boundless grace, fostering a deeper connection through worship. It encourages a grateful response to His unending love.

7. Pilgrimage of Praise: Walking with the Almighty

This book frames the spiritual journey as a continuous act of praise and seeking God. It uses the metaphor of a pilgrimage to describe the path of faith, where worship is a constant companion and guide. The title implies a dynamic relationship with God, much like the ongoing invitation to worship. It provides encouragement and wisdom for navigating life's journey with a focus on God.

8. Sacred Melodies, Sacred Lives: The Music of Faith

This work examines the profound connection between sacred music and the spiritual lives of believers. It explores how hymns and worship songs shape faith, offer solace, and inspire devotion. The book highlights the role of music in facilitating encounters with the divine, echoing the power of the chords and lyrics in "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship." It celebrates the enduring influence of faith-based music.

9. The Gateway to Heaven: Open Doors of Worship

This title suggests that worship serves as a portal, granting access to a more intimate experience of the divine. It explores the spiritual benefits and opportunities that arise from approaching God with an open heart and surrendered will. The book encourages readers to recognize the transformative power of entering into God's presence through worship, aligning with the song's central theme. It offers pathways to deeper spiritual connection.

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