

**Youth 2013 x-mas <The Christmas Carols of 2013>**

Script by Esther Chung

Hannah: It is that time of the year! My favorite time! Don't you love hearing the Christmas carols on the radio and seeing the shimmering decorations on the streets?

Rachel: I love all the carols, but my favorite one is "O Holy Night." What about you, Amy?

Amy: My favorite one? Hmm. I have to go with, "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." (She starts singing, and everyone joins for a while.)

Rachel: Anyway, I can't wait for a vacation.

Amy: It will be so nice to get two weeks off from school!

James: I don't know about you, but I will miss seeing my friends and eating lunch together with them.

Friend: I know what you mean. After you find friends you like to hang out with, school becomes so much more fun.

Hannah: Well, I am glad that you guys find school fun and interesting. I don't mind going to school either, but like Amy said, having a short break is healthy for students and teachers. Don't you think so?

James and Justin: Yeah, I guess you are right.

Grace: (walking in) Hey, you all. Hurry along. We have to all go to the Red Room and start practicing Christmas carols. Do we have everyone here?

Amy: Almost everyone, except ( ).

Grace: Has anyone seen ( )?

Friend: There she is. She's coming, but she doesn't look ready for the practice.

© 2013

University Presbyterian Church

( ): (walking toward the group) Hi, guys. I'm sorry I am late.

Grace: It's OK, don't worry about it. I was just about to get everyone to go upstairs, so you aren't that late. Hey, is everything OK?

( ): I'm OK ... well, actually, I'm not OK. These days, I don't feel anything. You know what I mean? It's Christmas time, but I don't feel any joy. In fact, Christmas seems just the same as any other time...

Rachel: ( ), considering your age, you must be feeling preteen blues, if there is such a thing.

Amy: Well, you have a point. It feels like we do the same thing over and over again, and it gets boring sometimes...

( ): Well, I'm glad I'm not alone.

James: I know we get wrapped up in so many things that we lose the focus of why we are even doing certain things, but think about it. We look forward to celebrating our birthday every year. We never get bored of celebrating our own birthdays, so we shouldn't get bored of celebrating Jesus' birthday.

Grace: Good point, James, good point.

( ): Well, anyway, I am not feeling very well, so you guys go ahead and practice. I'll join you soon after I get some rest.

Hannah: I will come and get you later then. Take care!

Grace: All right, everyone else should move along and get these songs down before tonight's event.

(Everyone leaves the room.)

( ): Dear God, I didn't tell my friends this because I don't want them to feel like I'm not a good Christian, but I really don't feel joyful in celebrating your birthday. It just seems so meaningless... Ahh, I don't know what has come over me.

This is all just so depressing... (She yawns and falls asleep on the couch)

(Past Ghost walks in)

Past Ghost: ( ), wake up. I want to show you something.

( ): (she struggles to wake up but then, when she does, she gets scared) Who are you? Where am I? Am I in hell? What did I do so wrong?!

Past Ghost: No, no, I am not here because you were bad. I was sent to show you what the past might have been like if Jesus hadn't been born.

( ): You mean, you are a ghost? Oh my God, I am going to faint.

Past Ghost: If it helps, think of me more like an angel than a ghost. Or more like a holy ghost, if you know what I mean.

( ): Ok, I understand. Now, what is it that you wanted to show me?

Past Ghost: Do you remember when children wanted to come and see Jesus?

( ): Of course.

Past Ghost: Let's look at what a difference Jesus made.

This is what happened: Jesus is sitting and talking to people, and some parents want to bring their children to be blessed by Jesus. His disciples tell them to go away since the teacher is busy, but then, Jesus goes to the children and tells them to come so He can pray for them.

This is what could have happened: A man is teaching and the parents want their children to be blessed. The disciples block them, and the man just keeps on talking. All the children walk away disappointed.

Past Ghost: You see, Jesus showed that children were important and that they should be cared for. In the old days, children

were thought of as property, if you know what I mean. They were not considered important, but Jesus taught adults to be kind and loving towards children.

( ): Oh, I get it.

Past Ghost: That's not all. Think about how Jesus changed peoples' mindset about women, the handicapped, and sick people. Remember how some Jewish men said in their prayers that they were thankful that they were not slaves, non-Jews, or women? We think it is very sexist and racist, but they weren't the only ones who thought like that. Most people felt that way in Jesus' time. Just think about America: women didn't get the right to vote until 1920, which is less than 100 years ago.

( ): Wow, you're right. We would have lived in a very different world if Jesus hadn't come.

(The bell rings)

Past Ghost: Well, I need to be leaving, but other ghosts will come and visit you as well.

( ): Thank you for paying a visit to a weary soul.

Past Ghost: Hang in there. You will be fine.

( ): (Coming back to where the couch was) Being visited by a ghost isn't so bad, but man, I was so scared when I first saw him! I am exhausted. (yawns and goes to sleep)

Present Ghost: (walks in and gently touches) ( ).

Present Ghost: Hey, ( ), wake up!

( ): (waving in the air) Mom, just five more minutes. I just need five more minutes. I promise you, I will wake up and get ready for school.

Present Ghost: ( ), you are on vacation.

( ): (getting herself up) Well, mom, then can't you just let me sleep in for one day? (She then finds out she is

looking at the Present Ghost.) Oh, my! I am so sorry. I thought you were my mom.

Present Ghost: No worries. I am sorry that I have to wake you up from your sweet sleep.

( ): It is OK. I was kind of expecting you, anyway.

Present Great! Then, are you ready for the present adventure?

( ): As ready as I can be.

Present Ghost: One last question. Do you want to the good news first or the bad news first?

( ): Hmm. I will save the good news for last.

Present Ghost: Alright. Nowadays, there are many places and people whose lives are affected by hatred and violence, but I want to show you some of the children who will lose their lives if the civil war doesn't end soon.

( ): I am so sorry to hear that.

Present Ghost: Yes, it is very painful, but we need to know what happens to children when adults prolong violence. Here is the plight of many children in Syria.

Show Youtube video: "A Lost Generation in Syria" by Reuters

( ): That is very, very sad. What do you think I can do?

Present Ghost: You can start praying for leaders not to be self-centered and hateful, but to have genuine concern for people they are governing.

( ): OK, I will start praying for the leaders around the world. What is the good news? I can't wait for the Good News!

Present Ghost: I want to show you a guy named Kash Register. Show the picture of him from the LA Times.

( ): Who is that?

Present Ghost: He was locked up behind bars for 34 years for a crime he didn't commit.

( ): That is terrible!

Present Ghost: I know! Exactly! He was only 19 years old when he was accused of killing an elderly person, and he was just recently cleared from the original conviction after staying in jail for 34 years!

( ): If I were him, I would kill the people who wrongly accused me and let me rot in jail for 34 years!

Present Ghost: Hey, hey, calm down. I understand you feel angry for this guy, but that is what I want to tell you. (Showing the newspaper) Here, Mr. Register, who is a devout Christian, said that even though there is a lot of devastating things that happened to him, being angry will only stop him from moving forward. Basically, he chose not to be an angry person, but a person of forgiveness and peace.

( ): That is incredible!

Present Ghost: Do you remember how Jesus said on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing?" He was talking about those who were putting him to death! I would say all of us have been hurt by someone at some point in our lives, but if we think about Jesus and how Mr. Register is handling the total injustice done to him, we can be more forgiving and accepting of others.

( ): I think you are right. I can only start praying to have that kind of courage and forgiving heart.

(Bell rings) Present Ghost: Oh, my! My time is up! I need to go!

( ): Thank you so much for visiting me! It was an incredible experience!

Present Ghost: Be strong! The Lord your God is with you always!

( ): (Back on the couch, waving hands) Thank you for showing me all those things! I will be good.

Grace: (walking in) ( ), are you OK? Do you want to go home and rest tonight? You look very, very tired.

( ): Oh no, are you kidding? I now know what an impact Jesus made on our lives, so of course I am staying to sing Christmas carols!

Grace: It looks like you have traveled to the other side of the world and back! Alright, it's time to sing.

( ): I am coming with you.

(They both exit and the Future Ghost walks in.)

Future Ghost: The past and the present ghosts did such a great job that I really have nothing to do. Because you see, my job was to show you the group of students who really love God and want to celebrate Jesus' birthday through their praises.

(Students walking in, singing "Joy to the World")

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

2. No more let sins and sorrows grow. Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curses if found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove.

The glories of His righteousness,

And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,

And wonders, wonders of His love.