

# A Christmas Carol

Modified by Julia Schult from the original by Charles Dickens  
for the UU Church of Cortland  
December 2009

Cast (in order of appearance):

Narrator, Bob Cratchit- Julia Schult  
Carolers - Men's Choir  
Ebenezer Scrooge - Zakary Allbright  
Scrooge's Niece, Winifred - Tricia Roiger  
2 Volunteers, looking for contributions - the Rev. Jan Johnson & Jason Thornton  
The ghost of Jacob Marley - Isaac  
The Ghost of Christmas Past - June Schult  
Mr. Fezziwig -Isaac  
Mrs. Fezziwig - Jocelyn  
People at Mr. Fezziwig's party - the Company  
Belle Fezziwig - Kim  
Ghost of Christmas Present - Lexi Allbright  
Mrs. Cratchit - Lexi's friend?  
Tiny Tina - Renata Reynolds  
Martha Cratchit – Shenequa Perry  
Cratchit Children – Jocelyn, Elena  
Husband & Friends of Winifred (Scrooge's Niece) - the Company  
Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come - June Schult  
Gravedigger – Lexi?  
Sexton - Lexi's friend?  
Boy in street - Isaac

Props: Door or doorway (center stage, edge toward audience)  
Bed and Cratchit's table, or one piece of furniture to act as both  
Stools or straight chairs for Scrooge & Bob, Cratchit's house, and Niece's party  
Clipboard and pen (for Volunteers)  
Metal chain (near microphone?) to make sound effects for Jacob Marley's Ghost  
Christmas tree, decorations for Fezziwig's party  
Plates, food and glasses for the Cratchit family's dinner  
Tombstones; one large, one small (wooden cross?)  
Shovel for Gravedigger  
Large turkey

Costumes: much leeway except for Spirits:  
Jacob Marley's Ghost: grey paper chains, perhaps a moneybox  
Spirit of Christmas Past – ideally a simple white robe  
Spirit of Christmas Present – crown of holly, long robes  
Spirit of Christmas Yet To Come – long robe and cowl to hide face  
Scrooge – may have a scarf and hat for when he's walking outside; bathrobe

Narrator/Bob: If you know the story of A Christmas Carol, you know that Scrooge was in fact a grasping, scrimping, selfish old man who never **gave** anyone anything. **Take** was his motto, and 'give' was a four-letter word he never used to describe himself. Not that his money did him any good, for he did not use it for his own pleasure. He only spent what was necessary to keep his business alive, and profitable. The rest of the people around him were happily involved in the holidays, feeling the spirit of Christmas, **giving** to each other from the heart, in gratitude and joy. In this spirit of generosity and abundance, we will now accept the offering so that this church can keep us together in body and soul.

(Carolers sing while passing the plates for the offering, and children take their places.)

#### Scene I: Scrooge & Marley's offices

(Carolers knock on the door while singing **Here We Come A-Wassailing** or similar). (Bob Cratchit opens the door, but then Scrooge steps up and Bob fades back.)

**Scrooge** (brandishing a ruler): **Bah! Humbug!** (Carolers stop singing, confused) **Be off with you! Haven't you better things to do with your time?** (Shuts the door.)

(Carolers leave, and Scrooge and Bob Cratchit return to their seats. Then Winifred knocks and opens the door to enter before they can answer.)

**Winifred: A Merry Christmas, Uncle! God save you!**

**Scrooge: Bah. Humbug!**

**Winifred: Christmas, a humbug, uncle? You don't mean that, I'm sure.**

**Scrooge: I do. Merry Christmas indeed. What right have you to be merry? You're poor enough.**

**Winifred: What right have you to be miserable? You're rich enough.**

**Scrooge: Bah!** (small pause) **Humbug.**

**Winifred: Don't be cross, uncle - I've come to invite you to Christmas dinner with my husband and some friends.**

**Scrooge: Niece, you keep Christmas in your way, and I'll keep it in mine.**

**Winifred: I am sorry to find you so set against it. But I have tried, in honor of Christmas. And I'll keep my Christmas humor to the last! So: A Merry Christmas, Bob! and A Merry Christmas, Uncle.**

**Bob: Merry Christmas.**

**Scrooge: Good afternoon.**

**Winifred: And a Happy New Year!**

**Scrooge: Good afternoon!**

(As Winifred leaves, she lets two genteel people in. They have notebooks and pen in hand, and come to stand before Mr. Scrooge.)

**Volunteer: Scrooge & Marley's, I believe. Are you Mr. Scrooge? Or perhaps Mr. Marley?**

**Scrooge: Mr. Marley has been dead for the past seven years. He died seven years ago this very night.**

**Volunteer: I'm sorry to hear it, Mr. Scrooge. Well, at this festive season of the year it is appropriate that we make some effort to assist the poor and destitute, who suffer greatly during these winter months. Many hundreds do not have enough food, clothing, or shelter, sir.**

**Scrooge: Are there no prisons? No workhouses?**

**Volunteer: Why, yes, there are prisons and workhouses, I'm sad to say.**

**Scrooge: Well then, the poor are taken care of.**

**Volunteer: As those places do not provide Christian cheer, a few of us are taking up a collection to buy the poor some meat and drink, and means of warmth. We choose this time, because it is a time when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. What shall I put you down for? (Holds pen at the ready.)**

**Scrooge: Nothing.**

**Volunteer: You wish to remain anonymous?**

**Scrooge: I wish to be left alone. I don't make merry myself at Christmas, and I can't afford to make idle people merry. I support the prisons and workhouses, they cost enough, and those who are badly off must go there.**

**Volunteer: Many can't go there. And many would rather die.**

**Scrooge: Then they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population. Good afternoon.** (He returns to work. Bob looks sheepish, and ushers the volunteers out.)

(A moment of silence.)

**Bob: Uh, it's... Um, it's nearing closing time, sir.**

**Scrooge: You'll want all day tomorrow, I suppose?**

**Bob: If quite convenient, sir...**

**Scrooge: It's not convenient! And it's not fair. And you still want your wages, for no work.**

**Bob: It is only once a year, sir.**

**Scrooge: A poor excuse for picking a man's pocket every twenty-fifth of December!**

**Bob: Sir, there will be no one to do business with; all the banks and money-houses will be closed.**

**Scrooge: I suppose you're right. But be here all the earlier next morning!**

**Bob: Thank you, sir! I will, sir! And Merry Chr- I mean, good afternoon.**

(Bob & Scrooge leave, with Scrooge locking up and walking away "through the town" to his house (the same door))

**Narrator: Ebenezer left work grumpy, arrived home grumpy, to the same dark, cold house he came home to every night. He fully expected this Christmas Eve to be exactly the same as every other winter night this year, and last year, and the year before. But this was to be a very different night. For on this night, he was visited by a ghost! It started when he arrived home.**

(Scrooge, at the door, cries out and acts startled pulling back from the doorknob.)

**For just a second or two, he could have sworn the doorknob showed him a face he had not seen in years, the face of Jacob Marley, his old business partner. Ebenezer Scrooge, however, did not believe in ghosts, spirits, or any kind of world beyond what we see in front of us. So he went in, lit a single candle as always - more would "waste money" - sat down in his cold room - to heat it would "waste money" - and ate his dinner which was a lump of hard cheese and one dinner roll with water - any larger dinner would "waste money", of course. As he sat there, however, he suddenly heard a clink [\*clink\*] a rattle [\*rattle\*] and a scraping sound [\*sound\*].**

## **Scene II: Ebenezer's house**

**Scrooge: Who's there?**

**Marley: It is I, Jacob Marley!**

**Scrooge: It can't be. Jacob Marley is dead!**

**Marley: Doesn't matter. I'm still Jacob Marley, your old partner.**

**Scrooge: Well, what are you here for?**

**Marley: I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard.**

**Does it look familiar to you?** (Scrooge shakes his head.) **You wear a chain also. Seven Christmases ago, yours was the same length that mine is now. You have built it link on link for seven more years. These chains I must wear because in life I chose to ignore the light in the world, and stayed true only to my moneybox.**

**Scrooge: Well, you were a good man - of business...**

**Marley: Business! All humankind was my business, if only I had noticed! But I had my chance to break the chains during my life and never noticed.**

**Scrooge: So why are you here? Why frighten me like this?**

**Marley: I am here tonight to warn you that you have yet a chance to escape my fate. I can do this much for you, my old friend, if such I may call you!**

**Scrooge: You were ever a good friend to me, Jacob.**

**Marley: You will be haunted by three spirits!**

**Scrooge: Ah, well, maybe I'd rather not, if it's all the same to...**

**Marley: Without their visits you cannot hope to avoid the path I tread. Expect the first tomorrow night, when the bell tolls one! The second, on the night after! And the third on the next!**

**Scrooge: Couldn't I at least take them all at once, and get it over with, Jacob?**

**Marley: Look to see me no more, my time is done! Remember what I have said.**

**Remember!** (Marley fades away)

**Narrator: Scrooge wasn't sure if what he'd seen was real or not. But he decided whether it was or wasn't, going to bed would be the most sensible thing to do.**

(Scrooge goes to bed and falls asleep. Soon the Spirit of Christmas Past comes to his bedside.)

**Christmas Past: Ebenezer! Ebenezer!**

**Scrooge: Wha? What? Huh?**

**Christmas Past: Ebenezer, it is time to open your eyes and see the past!**

**Scrooge: Why, who - are you the spirit of which I was told?**

**Christmas Past: Yes. I am the Spirit of Christmas Past. Rise and walk with me!**

(He gets up and they leave his bedroom for Fezziwig's Counting House.)

### **Scene III: Fezziwig's Counting House**

**Scrooge: Good heavens! I know this place! I was a boy here! I learned my trade in that very shop!** (Fezziwig enters with a crowd of people) **Fezziwig! It's old Fezziwig as I live and breathe! He was such a kind master, but** (smiles) **he had no head for business!**

**Fezziwig: Come everyone! Let's get ready for the Christmas Party!**

**Everyone sings as they set up decorations:**

**Deck the Halls with boughs of holly / Fa la la la la, La la la la.**

**'Tis the season to be jolly / Fa la la la la, La la la la**

**Sing we joyous, all together / Fa la la, Fa la la, La la la**

**Heedless of the wind and weather / Fa la la la la, La la la la.**

(Either music plays on the piano, or the party continues in silence.)

**Christmas Past: Go and join them, be your old self again for a time.**

**Scrooge: I remember being at many such parties.** (He joins the party, and is introduced to Belle. They dance, and the rest of the people fade away. Eventually Belle fades off to the side and stands, looking away from Scrooge.)

**Christmas Past: Ebenezer, do you remember what became of that young lady?**

**Scrooge: I - I don't want to remember.**

**Christmas Past: But it is part of your past. Go to her. Remember.**

**Scrooge** (approaching Belle): **Belle? It is I, Ebenezer.**

**Belle: Ah. Ebenezer. I wanted to meet you here, because I have something important to say.**

**Scrooge: No. Don't speak.**

**Belle: I must. I don't want to continue to wait. It has been three long years since you asked me to marry you. You said it would only be one year until you had enough money to make us comfortable.**

**Scrooge: But the money - that is only a temporary downturn. My finances are building, and soon I will have enough to bring you the life you deserve!**

**Belle: But I don't want your money. I never did. I wanted you! But you have proven to me again and again that as much as you think you love me, you love something else more.**

**Scrooge: No! I never wanted anything more than to marry you!**

**Belle: Over the last three years I have watched as you avoided me, always choosing your business and your bank account to any time spent with me. Yes, you did! You have another mistress, and it is your gold, or your prospects. Good-bye, Ebenezer.** (She smiles sadly and walks away.)

**Scrooge** (trying to convince himself): **Perhaps you are right. Maybe I never did love you. That must be right. You kept me from my business, distracted me! Yes, you were only holding me back. I'll be much better off without you, I can make much more money without ... you ... Spirit, take me away from this place! I cannot stand it!**

(Scrooge closes his eyes, and without a word the Spirit of Christmas Past takes him back to his own bedroom and leaves.)

#### **Scene IV: Scrooge's bedroom, then Bob Cratchit's house**

(Scrooge opens his eyes, and looks about him, confused. )

**Scrooge: It's over. I wonder if it ever was real. *She* seemed real, though. I haven't thought of her for years!** (The Spirit of Christmas Present comes to the door of the bedroom)

**Christmas Present: Come forth, and know me better, man!** (Scrooge slowly comes out.) **I am the Spirit of Christmas Present! Look upon me!**

**Scrooge: I see you.**

**Christmas Present: Do you know me? Do I look familiar? Or perhaps you know my brothers?**

**Scrooge: I don't think I know you. Do you have many brothers?**

**Christmas Present: More than 1800 brothers!**

**Scrooge: That's a large family to feed...**

**Christmas Present: Have you never walked with any of my brothers? Well, let us away! There's much to see, 'ere break of day!**

**Scrooge: Take me where you will. I am ready to learn! - I hope!**

**Christmas Present** (conducting Scrooge around the room, pointing out real and imaginary sights of the season, while the Cratchit house is readied): **See the decorations!**

**The smiles on faces young and old! Listen to the sounds of merriment! And of Music! Ah, here we are!** (they have arrived at the door to Bob Cratchit's house)

**Scrooge: What is this place? It seems to be one of the poorer parts of town.**

**Christmas Present: Poor in money, perhaps.** (They enter)

**Mrs. Cratchit: Come on, children! Let's get the table ready! Your father and Tiny Tina are nearly home!**

(The children scramble to set out the table things.)

**Bob: Come along, Tina! We're almost home! Here we are!** (they enter)

**The children rush to Bob: Father! Father! You're home!** (They surround Tiny Tina with welcomes, and continue preparing for dinner)

**Mrs. Cratchit: You're home! How was church?**

**Bob: Beautiful.**

**Mrs. Cratchit: And how was Tiny Tina?**

**Bob: As good as gold, and better. Shee gets so quiet sometimes, and thinks strange and wonderful things. Do you know what she told me on the way home? Shee said she hoped the people saw her in church, because she was a cripple, and she thought they might like to remember on Christmas who it was who taught the blind to see and the lame to walk.** (Tiny Tina starts to cough)

**Mrs. Cratchit: Children, children!** (she helps Tiny Tina to her chair by the fire) **There, there, Tiny Tina. Are you all right now?** (Tiny Tina nods.)

**Martha Cratchit: Mother, we're all ready now!**

**Mrs. Cratchit: All right! Everyone washed up? Come to the table!** (as they all hurry to wash up and settle at the table, she helps Tiny Tina to her seat)

**Bob: All right, children! Join hands for grace.** (They bow their heads) **Good food, good meat, good Lord, let's eat!** (All laugh and start serving) **One more thing, let us raise our glasses in a toast. To our continued health, and may we always be together at Christmas in spirit, even if we cannot be in the same place!** (All cheer "Hear, hear!" and drink) **And let us drink to the founder of the feast, Mr. Scrooge!** (Suddenly everyone is silent for a pause)

**Mrs. Cratchit: The founder of the feast, indeed. I wish I had him here. I'd give him a piece of my mind.**

**Bob: Mother, please. The feast. Christmas Day!**

**Mrs. Cratchit: Well, I'll drink his health for your sake, and for the Day's. Not for his. Long life to him. A Merry Christmas Day! He'll be very merry and happy, I've no doubt.**

**Bob: Merry Christmas to him!** (they all drink) **And one more most important toast, God bless this food, and bless us!**

**All: God bless us!**

**Tiny Tina: God bless us, every one!**

**Scrooge: Spirit, that is such a small feast for such a large family. And yet they seem happy for it.**

**Christmas Present: Yes, they do, don't they.**

**Scrooge: Yes. Hmm. Spirit, tell me, will Tiny Tina live? He seems so frail.**

**Christmas Present: I see only the present. But I see shadows in the present. There is the shadow of a little crutch with no owner in the corner by the fireplace. If all remains as it has been, the shadow will grow into truth.**

**Scrooge: And Tiny Tina will die.**

**Christmas Present: If the shadows remain untouched. But come, I have more to show, and my time grows short.**

(They leave the Cratchits' and go to another house where there is much laughter)

#### **Scene IV second half: Winifred's house**

(Winifred and his husband and friends are there, having a Christmas Party. )

**Winifred: I'm thinking of something that is animal.**

**Friends: A giraffe!** (Winifred shakes her head) **Is it a live animal?**

**Winifred: Yes.**

**Friend: Is it a disagreeable animal? Winifred: Most of the time.**

**Husband: Does it growl?**

**Winifred: Sometimes.**

**Friend: Is it a bear?**

**Winifred: Well, hmm. No.** (giggling to herself)

**Friend: Does it talk?**

**Winifred: Yes.**

**Friend: Does it live in London?**

**Winifred: Yes.**

**Husband: Is it in the zoo?**

**Winifred: I don't believe it's ever gone there.**

**Friend: Is it owned by anyone?**

**Winifred: Oh, no.**

**Friend: Is it killed by people?**

**Winifred: No. but sometimes it makes a**

**killing.**

**Husband: Wait! I know! It walks, it lives in London, never goes to the zoo, sometimes makes a killing, and it's an unpleasant animal. It must be your Uncle Scrooge!**

**Winifred: Yes! Very good, my love!** (they all laugh) **Do you know the other day I wished him Merry Christmas, and all he said was Bah! Humbug!**

**Husband & Friends: No! He never! Did he really?** (laughing)

**Winifred: Ha, ha, ha! That's what he said! That Christmas was a humbug! Ha ha ha! He believed it, too!**

**Winifred's Husband: the more shame he, then.**

**Winifred: That's true. He's a funny fellow, and not so pleasant as he might be. But he hurts himself more with his attitude than us, and I really have nothing to say against him.**

**Husband: I'm sure he's very rich, at least you always tell me so.**

**Winifred: Well, his wealth is of no use to him. He don't do any good with it. He don't even make himself comfortable with it.**

**Husband: I have no patience with him.**

**Winifred: Oh, I have. I am sorry for him. Who suffers by his ill ways? Always himself, most of all. He takes it into his head to dislike us, and refuses to come to a very excellent dinner. What's the consequence? He's always completely by himself at Christmas, and never gets any benefit from the season at all!**

**Husband: Winifred, I've had enough of Yes or No. Let's play something else!**

### **Scene V: The graveyard**

**Christmas Present: We must go, Ebenezer. I grow tired.**

**Scrooge: You look so... old all of a sudden.**

**Christmas Present: Yes, my time in this world is not long.**

**Scrooge: How long?**

**Christmas Present: One night only.**

**Scrooge: You only live for one night?**

**Christmas Present: One night. My time is drawing near.**

**Scrooge: Spirit, what is that I see clinging to your robe?**

**Christmas Present: These? Oh, these are only Want and Ignorance. They are with me always.**

**Scrooge: Are they yours?**

**Christmas Present: No, they are humankind's, created by man. They cling to me, hoping for salvation. This girl is Want, and this boy is Ignorance. Beware them both, but most of all beware the boy. For without Ignorance, there might be no Want.**

**Scrooge: Have they no other refuge?**

**Christmas Present: "Are there no prisons? No workhouses?" Perhaps they should just die, and "decrease the surplus population."**

**Scrooge** (stares, startled, but the Spirit of Christmas Present steers the children away. The robed figure of the Spirit of Christmas Yet To Come walks up behind him, waiting until Scrooge notices.): **Oh, goodness, you startled me!**

(No answer comes from Christmas Future.) **Are you the third spirit of which I was told?**

(no answer) **Am I in the presence of Christmas Yet To Come?**

(no answer, but the spirit points) **You are going to show me shadows of things that have not yet happened? Is that so?**

(no answer, just points) **Spirit of the Future, I fear you more than all the others. but as I know your purpose is to do me good, I will come with you and see what you have to show me. Will you not speak to me?** (no answer, just points).

**Very well, lead on.** (They go to the graveyard) **Spirit, why are we here, in such a gloomy place?**

**Sexton: Well, that's done it. He's all buried.** (wipes his hands)

**Gravedigger: Yup. I heard talk in the City 'bout this 'ere chap. Seems no one's sorry to see him go. What'd he die of, anyway?**

**Sexton: I don't know. No one does, he was alone in his house, and first anyone knew of it was he didn't show up at the office.**

**Gravedigger: Well, I thought he'd never die, this one. What 'appens to his money, d'ya know?**

**Sexton: I haven't heard. Left it to his Company, I suppose. All I know is, he didn't leave it to me!** (they laugh) **It was a cheap funeral, anyway. He'd've liked that.**

**Gravedigger: Oh, I dunno. I don't think he could like anything.**

**Sexton: True. No mourners either.**

**Gravedigger: None at all? Seems wrong, don't it.**

**Sexton: No one! But some businessmen were talking of getting up a service. I think they mostly wanted an excuse to have a lunch.**

**Gravedigger: Well, if lunch is provided, I'll go.**

**Sexton: Good thinking. Maybe I'll go, too. If there's lunch.** (they walk off).

**Scrooge: Spirit, I understand. This man's case might be much like my own. Who is this poor wretch, who no one mourns?** (Christmas Future merely points at the gravestone) **Oh, the stone. I'll read there who this poor unfortunate is. It is hard to make out... Oh, no... no, no! Ebenezer Scrooge! Is this what becomes of me? And no one to note my passing? Please, Spirit, is there no one who will miss me? No one at all? Wait, here comes someone...**

(Enter the Cratchit Family, minus Tiny Tina)

**Cratchit Family:** (sings) **We'll have a Blue Christmas, without you...**

(Scrooge opens his arms to welcome them and if he can, to thank them for coming. But they walk right past him and kneel down by a small grave off to the side.)

**Scrooge: What's this? Tiny Tina's grave? No! No, spirit, no. This cannot be allowed. These are mere shadows, aren't they? Answer me one question, please, Spirit! Are these shadows of things that *must* be? Or shadows only of things that *might* come to be? Please, tell me, can these things be changed?** (the spirit does not answer, then slowly points at Scrooge, who falls to his knees.) (While Scrooge delivers this next speech, the stage is cleared.) **Spirit, I am not the man I was. I swear I will change my ways. I will honor Christmas with all my heart. I will live in the past, the present, and the future. The spirits of all three will thrive within me. I will not shut away the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the words on this stone!** (He looks up, but the stone is gone.)

#### **Scene VI: Scrooge's house, Bob's house, Winifred's house**

**Scrooge: What? All gone? All done? I feel** (he pats himself) **I feel like a new man.**

**Oh, yes, I will change my ways, and I know how now, I - But wait! What if it is too late?** (goes to look out the door) **Boy! Here, Boy! What day is this?**

**Boy: Day? Why it's Christmas Day, sir!**

**Scrooge: Wonderful! I haven't missed it! Why, they did it all in one night! Bless them! Thank you, Jacob, you managed it in one night! Here, Boy. Do you know the prize turkey in the butcher's window in the next street?**

**Boy: Cor! You mean the one as big as me? Yes, sir! It's still there!**

**Scrooge: Go and get it.**

**Boy: What? Are you crazy, sir?**

**Scrooge: Go and get it. Here's some money, and bring it here. And if you do it fast, I have another half-crown for you!** (the boy takes off) **Yes!** (He paces) **Oh, there's so much to do! So much to do! I'll go to Bob Cratchit's house, and then I must go to my Niece's. I wonder if they'll still have me? Ah, well, and then I must... Or should I do that first? Ah, here he is with the turkey! My it is large, isn't it! That should feed plenty of family, and for some time! Here, boy. Bring it along with us and I'll throw in the whole crown.**

**Boy: Blimey! A whole crown! Blimey!** (They go to Bob's house. Scrooge knocks.)

**Bob: Hello, and Merry - Oh, goodness, it's you sir!**

**Scrooge: Yes, Bob. You weren't at the office this morning.**

**Bob: Yes, sir, you gave me the day for Christmas. Don't you remember? I'm sorry, sir! I'll -**

**Scrooge: Yes, Bob. Christmas. So therefore, I'm going to have to give you - a raise! Oh, and this is for you.** (The Boy delivers the turkey. Scrooge hands him a coin) **Merry Christmas, boy. Go off and enjoy your day. And a Merry Christmas to you, Bob. We'll do the paperwork for your raise tomorrow. Blessings of the day to you and your family!** (Bob is speechless.)

**Mrs. Cratchit: Who was that, Bob?**

**Bob: That was Mr. Scrooge. I think.**

**Scrooge** (continuing on, greeting the audience with Merry Christmas! He comes across the Volunteers.): **Ah, yes! I am so glad I ran into you. About your charity.**

**Volunteer: Oh, yes, I'm so sorry about -**

**Scrooge: No need, no need. I apologize for my rudeness yesterday. Yes. Well, I'd like to make a contribution. Put me down for** (he whispers in Volunteer's ear).

**Volunteer: (gasps) As much as that???**

**Scrooge: And not a penny less! There are a great many back payments in that, I assure you! And now** (he continues on to Winifred's house, and knocks).

**Winifred** (opens the door, laughing, and suddenly stops laughing): **Why, Uncle! Uncle Scrooge! Forgive me, but what are you doing here?**

**Scrooge: I hoped I might come to Christmas dinner. If I'm still welcome.**

**Winifred** (opens the door wider, inviting Scrooge in): **Still welcome? Yes, yes, of course you're still welcome! Brian, look who's come to dinner! It's Uncle Scrooge!**

**Scrooge: Might I ask that you start calling me Uncle Ebenezer?** (All gather around, smiling)

**Narrator: Scrooge was a different fellow from that day forward. People came to know him and love him for his generosity and good humor. And to Tiny Tina - who did NOT die! - he became like a grandfather. Well, I'll let him tell it in his own words:**

(Scrooge sings Zak's song. During the song, Jacob Marley's ghost brings out the red "Chain of Gratitude" and the company put it on the Christmas tree.)

(After the song, first Zak bows, then everyone bows together.)

**Narrator: one final note about the chain the children have just put on the tree. It is a "Chain of Gratitude" that they made around Thanksgiving. It has some special links that only have one side, instead of an inside and an outside. On these special links, the kids have written something they are grateful for, and on the flip side of the paper, a way they could help others to feel that gratitude. For instance, on one the person wrote that they were thankful for "Reading". The flip side suggests "Giving people books". After the service, or while we are decorating the church, we invite you to come and read the special links on our chain. I am thankful that we were able to put on this play, and you have done your part by being an appreciative audience. Thank you!**

Finis!