

Choose to Come Unto Christ

(A Musical Youth Fireside)
by Susan Slaugh

Narrator #1: Of all the gifts our Heavenly Father has given us, one of the most precious is choice; the ability to choose; the freedom to choose. We choose our attitude, our clothes, our friends, our hairstyles, and our religion... but some choices are more important than others.

Some paths we choose may seem like they will make us happy, but what is true happiness? Happiness is fading, it's temporary. When we make choices based on happiness, we are choosing to have a temporary emotion; a temporary state of life. But when we make choices that make us happy *and* are rooted in Christ, then we are choosing a lasting happiness; we are choosing joy.

Narrator #2: Christ has invited us, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Who among us isn't burdened with something? Burdens of school, work, chores, sin, guilt, etc. The point is, we all have burdens. But the more important point is, we are needlessly carrying those burdens. The Savior has offered to carry them for us, to give us rest from them.

But *we* have to make the choice to come unto him. Yes, it may seem like it's hard to follow him sometimes, but when we do, he offers us so much more in return. He reaches out his hand to lift us up. He reaches out his Spirit so we may know, that he'll carry all our burdens and wipe away our tears. *He* reaches out. If we just take hold of his hand, then our lives will be filled with his joy.

He Reaches Out

(Mezzo-Soprano Solo)

Narrator #1: Come unto Christ, he is patiently waiting to help you. Part of coming unto Christ is realizing that we are not perfect. Yes, we all want to believe that we are, but life is a progression. We all have faults and weaknesses. We all have need to repent of something, but he *will* forgive us. No matter how small or great our sins, he does reach out to us. And when we reach back to him, when we repent, when we call upon his name, how great will be our joy.

Narrator #3: Just pause for a second and think, what would it be like to meet the Savior again? How amazing would that moment be for us? What would we say? How would we feel? We can have that feeling right here on earth, but first we must repent and commit to do better, to take upon us the name of Christ, so that when we meet him we are not ashamed, but can run into his arms knowing we deserve him.

Narrator #1: But repenting is not always easy. When Alma was in the process of repenting he said, "Yea, I did remember all my sins and iniquities, for which I was tormented with the pains of hell; yea, I saw that I had rebelled against my God, and that I had not kept his holy commandments." (Alma 36:13) Through Alma, we see the horrible anguish he went through, but what gives us hope in his example is that he grew to be a great prophet. We all have a great potential. We may go through some sorrow in the process of repenting, but if we turn to our Heavenly Father he will help us and we will again feel of his love.

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I Feel It Now

(Tenor solo, Youth Choir)

Narrator #4: And Alma said, “Now, as my mind caught hold upon this thought, I cried within my heart: O Jesus, thou Son of God, have mercy on me, who am in the gall of bitterness, and am encircled about by the everlasting chains of death.” (Alma 36: 18) Even as Alma repented, we can repent. But that is our choice, a precious gift that can never be taken away.

Narrator #1: So, if we choose to repent and not sin, then what are we choosing? We’re choosing to pray, to read the scriptures, to help others in need, to have virtue in our thoughts, to have Christ’s image in our countenance. We’re choosing to come unto Christ.

You Who Have Chosen

(Alto Solo, Tenor Solo, Youth Choir)

(middle of You, Who Have Chosen...)

You who have felt of his love,
You who have felt of his mercy.

(Read while piano playing)

Narrator #4: “And now, behold, when I thought this, I could remember my pains no more; yea, I was harrowed up by the memory of my sins no more. And oh, what joy, and what marvelous light I did behold; yea, my soul was filled with joy as exceeding as was my pain!”

(You, Who Have Chosen continued...)

When you look at your life and see...

Narrator #5: And Alma said, “...yea, God has delivered me from prison, and from bonds, and from death; yea, and I do put my trust in him, and he will still deliver me.” (Alma 36: 27) So how do we reach our true potential, like Alma? Once we’ve repented, we must put our trust in God; we must have faith. Faith that His will is what will give us a state of life much longer than just a fading happiness, but a life that is forever, a life so full of joy that our minds cannot even comprehend it.

Narrator #1: We’ve all felt the Spirit before; felt of the Lord’s love before. But that too, as marvelous and wonderful as it feels is only a fraction of the joy that we can feel. If we truly stand up for what we believe in, pray to him, read of his words, teach others, keep his commandments, commit to do better, to be better, then we can feel his love always; we can feel his Spirit always. But to do this, we need to have a little faith; to put our trust in God.

I'll Show My Faith

(Soprano Duet)

Narrator #6: And Alma said, “Yea, and from that time even until now, I have labored without ceasing, that I might bring souls unto repentance; that I might bring them to taste of the exceeding joy of which I did taste; that they might also be born of God, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.” (Alma 36: 24) Once we have shown our faith and truly felt that exceeding joy that Alma talks about, why wouldn’t we want to share it with others? If we have found a truth that makes us so overwhelmingly happy, why would we want to deprive others from that same joy?

Narrator #1: Is it because of fear that we do not share the gospel? And if that is so, are we more afraid of our friends than God? Our ultimate goal is to return back to Heavenly Father, to live with our families forever. If we truly remember that this is our goal, then we have no reason to *not* tell our friends about Jesus Christ. We actually have reason to shout it to the entire world. Jesus Christ has invited us to come unto Him and he's offered to take away our burdens and to give us eternal joy; of course we want others to have that too!

Share His Word

(Baritone Solo)

Narrator #7: And Alma said, "And I know that he will raise me up at the last day, to dwell with him in glory..." (Alma 36: 28) If we come unto Christ, we will also be raised up at the last day, to dwell with Heavenly Father. "Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you." (Moroni 10:32)

Narrator #1: We are God's children. We knew God's plan for us before we were born and we chose to come to the Earth. We are still God's children and we still have a choice. Do we choose to come unto Christ?

We Choose to Come Unto Christ

(Mezzo Soprano Solo, Baritone Solo, Youth Choir)

Narrator #1: Now is the time to make the choice. There is not time for procrastination. Choose to Come Unto Christ. Stand for truth and righteousness. Be steadfast and immovable. 1st Timothy 4:12 says, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Once you have made the choice for yourself to come unto Christ, "be thou an example." As President Monson once said, "Ours is the opportunity to learn, the privilege to obey and the duty to serve. In our time there are feet to steady, hands to grasp, minds to encourage, hearts to inspire, and souls to save." (Thomas S. Monson October 1996 General Conference)

There *are* hearts to inspire. There *are* souls to save. This *is* our time. Time to show who we are. Time to become an example. Time to Come Unto Christ.

Be Thou An Example

(Youth Choir)