

[Fade in station ambiance]

JOY

I wasn't sure what to expect for my first Christmas in the stars, but I never would have expected this. People are... amazing, and lovely, and... beautiful. Just like the earth itself. I've never felt closer to it. [laughs] And I'm the farthest I've ever been.

You don't need physical proximity to be close to someone. You really just need time together that balances your time apart. I think that's what the winter holidays are really about. Gathering with your loved ones, in space or in spirit, and celebrating your connection with them. I love how so many of our intricate holiday traditions boil down to that.

We're here because we're here, but we're all here together on that big blue marble... or floating around it in my case. And everyone is making the best of it, not just myself. I guess that's sort of what these end of year holidays are about - a celebration that you made it this far, and taking a break with your favorite people before you all do it again.

I shouldn't have worried about being lonely on Christmas. My heart is filled with warmth as I think of everyone I've met. I hope they're all doing well. I hope you, whoever's listening to this, are doing well too. You deserve it.

I ended my first holiday broadcast by saying "Joy, to the world" but really, it's the world that brought me joy. So thanks for that, everyone. Turns out the world had a lot of things to say back to me, and they were all wonderful. I'll hold all your stories close. I'll think about them as I sit on the observation deck, staring down at our little home through the windows of the cupola.

They say the universe is big, cold, and uncaring, but there's a speck of it with so much love packed in. We're my favorite part of the galaxy, you know. As much as I love being an astronaut and leaving the planet... coming back is pretty great too.

[A beat]

Well, it's going to be a few weeks before I'm home and science doesn't stop for the holidays. I've got a few experiments to tend to before bed. Merry Christmas, yall. Thanks for spending your time with me.

This has been Joy, to the world.
Over and out.

[A click ends the station ambiance, and we go to static, which fades
out into whatever the theme music is]