"The Redemption of Scrooge"

By Matt Rawle
Lead Pastor - Asbury UMC
Bossier City, LA

Reflection (from session #2)

- What lessons can you learn by revisiting both your positive and not so positive memories?
- Would it be valuable spiritual practice to set aside time to reflect on how your past has impacted where you are in your faith journey?
- How can you bring the Hope of God's redemption and healing power to those who need it most?



Ghost of Christmas Present

The Life of Christmas Present

Luke 15:1 - 10

Lost Sheep/Lost Coin

Luke 15:1 – 10 Lost Sheep/Lost Coin

What does the scripture say about God lifting up;

those who feel that <u>no one cares</u>, those that have <u>lost faith</u>, and those that that <u>slip through the cracks</u>?

Luke 15:1 – 10 Lost Sheep/Lost Coin

How might God's words in this Scripture be at odds with how we typically understand justice?

Luke 15:1 – 10 Lost Sheep/Lost Coin

What can we do as Christians to help find the lost sheep and the lost coins?

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!

Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;

With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored: Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail, th'incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hail! the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

Hymn Questions

- -This carol offers praise to God being born to us in Christ. What signs do you see today of God being born to us?
- -"that we no more may die": How can we live forever?
- "born to give us second birth": Have you in any way been given a second chance, as Scrooge is being given?

The Life of Christmas Present

Reflection

- What would the Ghost of Christmas Present want you to <u>see and learn</u> about our world, our community, our church and our PACE Class?
- What are the <u>tangible</u> ways you can show love and bring hope to people who are experiencing darkness during this time of Advent and Christmas?
- How should the difficult circumstances surrounding the first Christmas <u>influence your attitude</u> as you make your way through the coming year?

L**O**V**E

... let us not Love in word or speech but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:18

"Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, Love Divine; Love was born