



## Luke 2:8-20 New International Version

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a **manger**.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the **manger**. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Advent is Christian life in four weeks.**

# A CHRISTMAS CAROL

*Dickens wanted to show that connection that exists between and how we live and relate to one another each day and the spirit of christmas.*

*Life is a humbug a meaningless burden*

**There is a little bit of Scrooge in all of us.**

**Christmas Past – You fear too much**

Are you becoming more the person you wanted to be, more the person God wanted you to be and the kind of person Christmas offers. Is there still a little bit of Bah Humbug in your faith, your family and your future?

Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

**Present – You feel too little.**

Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!

“The spirit of the Lord is upon me to preach good news to the poor” Luke 4:18

**Christmas future: the Hope of Redemption**

“Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends, to which, if persevered in, they must lead," said Scrooge. "But if the courses be departed from, the ends will change.”Charles Dickens

“I am not the man I once was” he says, “I will not be the man I might have been, had it not been for this. Why show me this if I am past all hope? Assure me that I may yet change these shadows you have shown me, by an altered life.”

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. Jn 10:10

*“I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach!”* Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*

“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the father, but by me.” John 14:6