



March 10, 2021

I realize it is out of season to quote a passage about Christmas Eve, but I'm thinking about Scrooge's nephew.

On Christmas Eve, Scrooge's nephew comes to visit, full of good cheer, and giving generously to others. His uncle Scrooge, of course, says "Bah! Humbug!"

"Christmas a humbug, uncle!" said Scrooge's nephew. "You don't mean that, I am sure."

"I do," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

"Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."

The nephew reminds me of a spiritual truth as old as scripture. In Paul's letters, he writes things like "give thanks in all circumstances," and "I have learned to be content with whatever I have." (1 Thessalonians 5:18 & Philippians 4:11)

I find it helpful to remember that Christian faith is about what we practice as much as what we believe. Practice means that it will be difficult at first, but then it gets easier. Practice means that we won't be able to do it well until we've been practicing for some time.

Scrooge's nephew had lots of practice, so he could be joyful and generous in spite of his financial challenges. Scrooge was "rich enough," but he had little practice. Thank God for the visits he received that night.

I invite you to practice giving thanks to God.

I invite you to spend one minute in silence, thinking about what you are thankful for in your life.

Peace,

Rev. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister