



# The Redemption of Scrooge

Date: Monday, Dec 17, 2018

Title: Conditions on the Ground

Text: [Luke 2: 1-20](#)

This week we focus on the Ghost of Christmas Present. Scrooge meets this ghost, high and lifted up, living the good life in Scrooges own living room. It is a rather strange sight. Immediately, Scrooge is taken on a tour through London. He goes to places he ordinarily does not go. There is a certain bleakness in the city and yet, there is sense of joy and generosity among some of the people.

Consider our city. Are there parts of Pittsburg that strikes you as bleak? How much time have you spend in these part?

The story of the birth of Jesus, as Luke tells it, happens in the midst of some bleak circumstances. Whole families are compelled to travel to their home town in order to be registered so that the government has a better count of how many there are and how they may be taxed or sent to war. The order of the census is just another reminder of how powerless the Hebrew people were in the Roman empire. Yet, in the midst of the bleakness, the good news is underway. The news is good precisely because it is God's response to the bleakness that cannot be sustained. God has responded to our bleakness and continues to respond.

Thought to ponder: Light shines brightest in the darkness.

Prayer: The chaos in our world is real. So is your loving presence. May we be comforted with the good news and in turn comfort others with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted. In His name. Amen!