

## The Grinch

Every Christian at First Church liked church a whole lot  
But the Grinch, who lived just south of First Church, did not!  
The Grinch hated church, no one quite knows the reason  
And especially he hated the whole Christmas season!

It could be that the music was just way too loud  
It could be, perhaps, his aversion to crowds  
But I think that the reason he found church so boring  
Was the state of his cold heart that needed restoring.

But whatever the reason, his ears or his brain  
He stood at his pew thinking, "church is a pain!"  
Staring down at the pulpit with a sour, grinchy frown  
Wishing only that someone would let them sit down.

For he knew that the offering was soon on the way  
And then all those Christians would probably pray  
So he growled with his Grinch fingers nervously tapping  
"I must find a way to get back to my napping!"

For after the prayer, which was more like a screech,  
The pastor would open his Bible to preach  
And he'd preach! And he'd preach! And he'd preach, preach, preach, preach!  
Which was something the Grinch couldn't stand in the least!

And then they'd do something he liked least of all  
Every Christian at First Church, the tall to the small  
Would walk down to the front at the end of the service  
Where they'd stand and they'd worship until he got nervous.

They'd stand hand in hand, music in his ears ringing  
Then the Christians around him would once more start singing!  
And they'd sing! And they'd sing! And they'd sing, sing, sing, sing!  
And that's when the Grinch thought, "I must stop this whole thing!"

"Why for fifty-three years I've put up with it now!  
I must get this bunch settled down some ... but how?"  
Then he got an idea! An awful idea!  
The grinch got a sinfully awful idea!

"I know just what to do!" the Grinch said with a hop  
"It's Christmas! I'll get them to shop till they drop!"  
And then, once they're busily buying possessions  
They won't have the time for these loud worship sessions.

"I'll distract them," he thought, "with bargains and flyers  
And sales that are tempting for hard-to-please buyers  
With feasts and with programs, and parties in town  
They'll soon neglect church in their rushing around."

“They’ll max out their bank account, run up their credit  
With Visa and Mastercard, Amex and debit.  
And once the bills hit, I know just what they’ll do  
All the Christians at First Church will all cry ‘boo hoo!’”

“That’s a noise,” grinned the Grinch, “that I simply must hear!”  
So he paused, and the Grinch put a hand to his ear.  
And he did hear a sound rising up from the altar  
It started to grow, and it never once faltered.

But the sound wasn’t sad – why, this sound sounded merry  
It couldn’t be so, but it was merry – very!  
As he stared at the altar, the Grinch popped his eyes  
Then he groaned in dismay at the shocking surprise!

Every Christian at First Church, the tall and the small  
Was singing – without any presents at all!  
He hadn’t stopped church – no, the truth had prevailed  
And his whole sorry scheme had utterly failed.

The Grinch puzzled an hour, more sincere than critiquing  
As the pastor concluded – why, that man was still speaking!  
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before  
Maybe if I’m involved, church won’t be such a bore!

And what happened then? Well, at First Church they say  
That the Grinch’s cold heart caught on fire that day  
And the minute the Grinch quit complaining and whining  
He was filled with such joy that his face started shining.

Then he ran to the altar to sing and to pray  
To put the Lord first in his life every day  
And the Grinch laughed out loud as it all became clear  
Why we celebrate Christmas every day of the year.

If the Grinch looks a bit too familiar to you  
Then perhaps this is something you might want to do  
In the middle of seasonal pressures and strife  
Come to First Church and give God a chance in your life.