

# Waiting, Watching, Wondering

14 December

*An Advent to Epiphany Course from the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney*



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## **Zephaniah 3:9-13**

At that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech,  
that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord.  
From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, my scattered ones, shall bring my offering.

On that day you shall not be put to shame  
because of all the deeds by which you have rebelled against me;  
for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones,  
and you shall no longer be haughty  
in my holy mountain.

For I will leave in the midst of you  
a people humble and lowly.

They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord—  
the remnant of Israel;  
they shall do no wrong  
and utter no lies,  
nor shall a deceitful tongue  
be found in their mouths.

Then they will pasture and lie down,  
and no one shall make them afraid.



*To wonder*

In *The Cocktail Party*, T.S. Eliott wrote:

Half the harm that is done in this world  
Is due to people who want to feel important.  
They don't mean to do harm-but the harm does not interest them,  
Or they do. not see it, or they justify it  
Because they are absorbed in the endless struggle  
To think well of themselves.

How freeing would it be to accept today that you are no more important than any other of  
God's creatures?

You have no need to impress anyone.

You need feel no angst; you are not responsible for anything but your own behaviour.

*To pray*

Tender God,

you have seen our affliction and unbound our eyes;

you have bereaved us of the burdens

to which we used to cling;

you have woven our pain into patterns of integrity;

the wounds that we have cherished you have turned into worship,

and the scars we have kept hidden

into marks of truth.

You have touched us gently;

we have seen your face, and we live. Amen.

*[A Collect by Jim Cotter]*

*To listen*

The pride from my heart by Iona Community <https://aoepiscopal.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/18-The-Pride-From-My-Heart.m4a>

More than words by the Extreme <https://open.spotify.com/track/2SbsvihBJmgNKZ4qkXFWrp?si=f1143a43300445a2>

