



**December 15, 2024**

***All is Calm***  
**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

**Big Idea:** The Christmas season is a reminder that God, through Jesus Christ, delights in you.

**Overview:** Zephaniah contains some of the most vivid and graphic oracles of judgment and wrath for Judah. The first three chapters are a startling reminder that God takes the moral life of Israel seriously. The last eleven verses of Zephaniah contain some of the most vivid descriptions of God's love for His people. The character of God demonstrated in Zephaniah are not contrasting opposites but rather show the way in which God loves through his discipline. Zephaniah, like the other prophets addressed in this series, hopes for the "day of the Lord" where both his judgement and blessing will be poured out. These whispers point us to the advent of Jesus Christ, where the punishment of God is satisfied, the love of God poured out, and His delight in His people demonstrated.

A key piece of this Advent series will be focused practices that KAC can employ throughout December. On our website, and copies available on the weekends, there will be an Advent guide to help you engage further in the Scriptures and practice the spiritual discipline to experience Jesus in what can be a very distracted and busy month of December.

**Life Group Objectives:**

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week's message and passage or dig into the series you are going through as a group. When we all track together on the sermon series, we learn and grow together as a church.
2. We desire for you to have the Bible play a key role in your time together. Please have people open up Bibles, seeking clarity, asking questions, sharing insights, and allowing it to guide your time together.
3. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?

**Conversation starters:**

- Can you recall a moment in your life where you felt particularly loved by God?
- How would you describe God's love to someone who has never experienced it before? What words or images come to mind when you think about God's love?

**Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

**Read Scripture:** Zephaniah 3:14-20

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. ***All is Calm* because: You are forgiven vs. 14-15**
  - Zephaniah describes the reaction and worship of people who are loved by God as they *sing, shout, rejoice, and are glad*. How would you describe your musical worship engagement?
  - Within Christian history, the place of emotions in the Christian life has either been overemphasized or underemphasized. Where would you say you land on this question?
  - Zephaniah is calling us to rejoice *with all our heart*. What does that look like for you (based on personality, age, experience, story, etc.)?

- Zephaniah foresees a day where *the Lord has taken away your punishment*. This is a foretaste of the forgiveness offered at the cross. This Christmas, what are you most grateful about the cross of Jesus and how it has impacted your life?

## 2. **All is Calm because: You are loved vs. 17**

- Zephaniah declares that God will *take great delight in you*. How does this confirm or contradict your belief about who God is and what He thinks about you?
- How does God's love *quiet you*? Think about how a safe and loving relationship brings peace to the human soul.
- The reason we rejoice as we sing to God, is because He sings over us. This is a reciprocal event. The coming of Jesus is the greatest act of love. How would your life change if you knew, at the very core of your being, how loved you were?
- This week we focus on the practice of generosity (see other resource on our website). As God has lavished and poured out his love towards us, we do that to others. What simple act of generosity (with your words, time, talent, treasure) are you going to commit to demonstrating this Christmas season?

### **Listening to God:**

- The Lord speaks, and we need to discern. What are some key themes that have emerged in your time together? What is the Holy Spirit impressing upon us?

### **Prayer Prompts and Application:**

- Make sure to remind the group of the Advent Practices Guide we have made available for you.
- For families, Pastor Carleen has also made a guide for your family to participate together.
  - Check out these resources!