



# Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Thursday, December 17  
John 1:1, 14 (adapted)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was with God. And the Word became flesh – that is, the Word took breath – and lived among us. (John 1:1, 14, adapted)

James Weldon Johnson writes about a lonely but imaginative god in “Creation.” Alice Walker’s god is said to be deeply troubled when we don’t notice the color purple in a field. Here, John gives us a god who is The Word.

The Word was all that was needed to create the foundations of the earth. To spin it on its axis, firm up the firmament, separate the deep from the deeper still. And yet, God was not done after all that; God then created living things in the *imago dei*. Amen. And in that image, we inherit the power of our voices as well as the blessing of The Word.

For people like me, intersectional and oppressed – our Word is often all we have. We are written out of official stories. We do not appear, as we should, in the public record. We are purged from voter rolls as if we never existed. Our cries for our mothers do not produce empathy, even as we are running out of breath. We are erased from curriculum that talks about our ancestral lands which housed our ancient selves. We are erased from schools of knowledge that we originated when they are hellenized, made into marble statues that repudiate our features. Nevertheless, we persist.

The creative power of The Word stays our souls, and gives us strength. Our oral and shared histories, our names written in decades old ornamental bibles, our obituaries, become the record of our lives. We have become masters at turning a phrase, sparking a verse. We are word made flesh. And we too were at the beginning.

*Genesia Williams '20*  
*Operations and Communications Associate*  
*Urban Debate League*

**AUGSBURG**  
UNIVERSITY  
Campus Ministry

[www.augsburg.edu/campusministry](http://www.augsburg.edu/campusministry)