



Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Saturday, December 19
Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

December 19, 2010...with a swollen belly, exhausted body and eager heart I pace the hallways of the hospital with my husband, encouraging our son to join the breathing world.

Breathe. Walk. Wait.

Breathe. Walk more. Wait more.

Breathe. Breathe. PUSH!

Push and breath. Breathe and push more until...

The waiting brakes. A cry, a first breath.

Filled and emptied all at once, I exhale deeply. The work is over, but it is also just beginning. This new human in my arms - a reminder of the fragility and responsibility of the gift of life. And of the God who accompanies it all from beginning to end, to new beginning.

I imagine Mary. Breathing. Walking. Waiting. Breathing and pushing. Until a cry breaks through. Jesus' first breath, like his last, a promise of God's fierce commitment to an exhausted creation.

May we never forget this promise.

May it fill us with the inexhaustible love of God.

May it push us towards a creation that longs for abundant life.

Amen.

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