



# Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Friday, December 4  
Isaiah 42: 1, 5-6

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen,  
in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

Thus says God, who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the peoples upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you.

I once fell asleep with a cough drop in my mouth. I woke up gasping for air, choking on the drop. I needed to catch my breath; I wanted to breathe. I wanted to live, to freely breathe again. It is one of the most frightful feelings I have ever experienced. Briefly, I was afraid to go back to sleep. Breath is life. Spirit is life.

Isaiah speaks about God's promise fulfilled in Jesus' coming, the embodiment of justice and righteousness. This promised One chooses and keeps God's people, giving breath anew and spirit-life to all. This promise is the light to the nations; light that shines through the cracks in a broken world.

God's Spirit is upon him; the chosen, the called; the bringer of Justice. Justice is the breath we desire. Justice is the breath we long for, the breath we hold on to once we catch it. We have a promise that the servant will bring justice to the nations.

God who promises is faithful! We look here toward the light of Christ, and in this holy light proclaim: Come, Emmanuel. Come now, Breathe of God, bring Justice for all God's creation. Oh, may it be so!

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