



Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Wednesday, December 9
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Stanza written by Kristina Boerger

O, Come, O Come, thou breath of God.
Sustain those who on Freedom's paths have trod.
Give health to ev'ry heaving breast
and strength to all on Liberation's quest.

— Kristina Boerger, Schwartz Professor in Choral Leadership

We have come to understand Emmanuel, God is with us, in a particular way, especially during Advent. Scripture gives us a more expansive expression. At creation, it was Divine breath that brought life to the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7). It was Emmanuel, God not only with us, but in us. God flowing into our nostrils and through our lungs giving life to our bodies.

Millenia later, Black, Indigenous, and people of Color, and other marginalized people cry out, "I can't breathe." This cry is not only for human breath, but for the life-giving breath of God to once again fill our lungs, sustaining and strengthening those who seek Liberation and Freedom for ALL. Advent has been a season of waiting. This Advent, hear the cries that cannot wait any longer and pray "O, Come, O Come, thou breath of God. O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

*Jenn Luong, Pastoral Intern
Augsburg Campus Ministry*

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