

Doula

by [Alfonso Sito Sasieta](#) in the [December 2023](#) issue

Deep speaks to deep. Womb
greeted womb & blessed
are you who wriggled & writhed,
who left behind the warmth
of the uterus & crawled through mucus
& blood. Blessed are you who fell
into the steady hands
of an aunt or an overworked
nurse, an exhausted father or a giddy
bisabuela, bone-tired
from acclamation
& hymn—& to all of them—
to each of our forebears
who prayed us into being,
who sang

O Come, O Come

In their own tongue, by night
& day, through mourning & despair,
who carried the God
of Hope unto flesh & breath.

Who caught Jesus? Who was the weary
midwife? Who was the doula?

Are we not the hallelujah
that You deliver into open hands?