

*“it’s okay to breathe.*

*we all know that the guilty verdict for the former officer that murdered George Floyd is not the end.*

*but it’s okay to breathe.*

*that perhaps the only reason for that verdict is that the murder was captured in its all it’s  
excruciatingly minutes - whether 8 or 9 — too long for a body to bear.*

*it’s still okay to breathe.*

*that the murder was seen by so many because it took place in the midst of a global pandemic when  
there were enough eyes in one place.*

*it is okay to breathe .*

*that we rose up because our bodies were in a forced time out, not moving to and fro, distracted into  
the next thing.*

*it’s okay to breathe.*

*that this verdict comes as far too few in far too vast an ocean of violence upon Black bodies.*

*still, we must breathe.*

*that justice not served rendered upon against one man when an entire system, a nation, a history  
raised him that way.*

*breathe we must.*

*that justice will not be done until the killing of Black  
menwomenbabieschildrendaughterssonsmommasdaddieskin is done.*

*grieve we must.*

*it’s okay to breathe*

*and then breathe and breathe again.  
until true justice is done.”*

**- Rev. angel Kyodo williams**