

# IN EXCELSIS DEO

## ADVENT 2024

**Friday, December 13**

**Read: Romans 8:18-25**

Paul writes from personal experiences of suffering. Besides all the dangers, toils and hardships he faced during his ministry, he had a physical condition he describes as “a thorn in his side”.

Several months ago, I was told by my cardiologist that my echogram showed that I have another leaking heart valve, and I need to have a procedure called TVAR (transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement). I reluctantly proceeded to have the preliminary tests in preparation for surgery scheduled for June 15, 2024. However, I was warned that my insurance company could possibly deny paying for the expensive procedure. Sure enough, surgery was denied, and appeals began.

Four months have passed, and another surgery date is scheduled for mid-January. Will I be denied again? The anxiety and distress of waiting would be unbearable if not for the hope Paul described in these scriptures. Should complications during surgery or complications from no surgery take my life? All the waiting and anxiety give way to the joy of promised salvation. “We sorrow and we suffer but not as those who have no hope”. Romans 8:18– says “Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will give us later.

The message we receive in Isaiah 60:20 is “When the time is right, I the Lord, will make it happen. Sleep in peace tonight. For I am with you through this.”

Betty Lou Nunneley