



APC Advent Devotional – November 29th, 2020
First Sunday of Advent

I am wonderfully made and ... EXCITED!

Today's Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NIV)

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.



When my friend, Marjory, messaged me and asked if I would write a devotional for the upcoming Advent season that we traditionally do at our Church, I immediately replied, “Yes!” My follow-up question to her was, “Can I do the first Advent, which would fall on November 29?” She agreed. November 29 is special, because it is also my birthday, which falls on the first Sunday of Advent – my favorite time of the year.

Though I am hopeful and excited about what the season will bring, until now the year has not been as promising as it seemed on January 1, 2020. Recently, a friend called to check on me and with a spurt of joy, I responded, “I am wonderfully made and excited!” That response to my friend took a lot of faith saying it and believing it. This has been a particularly **challenging** year for me. I was brought to the emergency room and hospitalized twice and have seen five specialist doctors over the last three months.

As we light the first candle of Advent today, may our hearts be rekindled with an abundance of hope. As Christians we are reminded that, we are in a **race** to gain that everlasting crown. With today's many temptations, it is easy to doubt our faith. Keep pressing on with fervor in order to gain that prize. Like the smell or taste of that clean, fresh oxygen that we cannot get enough of when we cannot breathe, let us keep on craving more of God.

Never, Never, **Never** give up!

By Beverley Wilson-Wünsch