

## Praying through the week 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Advent

**Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?** Isaiah 43:19



So often, I hear many of us (including myself) comment, but how can Christmas be different this year? We've done it, so many times – it is an amazing story, but one that always remains the same. I don't claim these words as my own, but they are ones, that really made me reflect, that I should be doing Christmas differently – every year. Vicky

Advent is an attitude of anticipation. The entire season prepares us to allow Christ into our hearts, sometimes in ways far different from other times when we celebrate the “excitement of December.” Many people want everything about this season to stay the same year after year: the same carols, the same schedule for giving gifts, even food prepared in the same way. Fine. Consistency does give consolation and reassurance.

But another truth tells us that each year ought to be different. We are not the same. We are faced with different responsibilities, moved by different insights, changed by circumstances we didn't have before, challenged by fresh opportunities and different memories, equipped with increasing or diminishing capacities for coping with all these variations. So we never “Advent” in exactly the same way.

Christ is preparing to come to us this Christmas in a way that suits who we are—and how we are—this year. © 1996 Isaias Powers

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