



**Advent 2021, Week 1, "Unveiling Hope"**

## Opening & Closing Prayers

### **"Lightening the Load" by Francis Dorff, O. Praem**

The first thing we have to do  
is to notice  
that we've loaded down this camel  
with so much baggage  
we'll never get through the desert alive.  
Something has to go.

Then we can begin to dump  
the thousand things  
we've brought along  
until even the camel has to go  
and we're walking barefoot  
on the desert sand.

There's no telling what will happen then.  
But I've heard that someone,  
walking in this way,  
has seen a burning bush.

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### **Personal Prayer of Pedro Arrupe, SJ**

Grant me, O Lord, to see everything now with new eyes,  
to discern and test the spirits  
that help me read the signs of the times,  
to relish the things that are yours, and to communicate them to others.  
Give me the clarity of understanding that you gave Ignatius. Amen.