

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent: HOPE**  
**PENANCE RITE AND HOME RITUAL**

**Leader:** *Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. (Matthew 24:42)*

**Response:** **O come, Emmanuel! Come!!**

**Leader:** When have you waited and waited and even lost sleep holding vigil for something to happen; someone to arrive; a child's fever to break; concerned about a decision you need to make; ... Such it is with Faith's Call! ... Matthew challenges us with this reality of expectation in the Gospel this day! "*Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.*"

The Lord's coming to Mary, John the Baptist and the Prophets was God's longing for us. Advent's Hope is about the Promise of Salvation and Healing. "*So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect the Son of Man [who desire's us] will come.*" We know the story! We have the Hope! But the moonless night keeps us tossing once again. When will the Sun rise in our heart's eye?

**Response:** **The sun is coming!**  
**We wait in cautious HOPE.**  
**O come, Emmanuel! Come!!**

*Light the First Candle*

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent Prayer**

**All (Facing East):** **Creator,**  
**let your HOPE arise in our hearts!**  
**Lift our eyes up to see that you alone**  
**are the wellspring of our HOPE.**  
**Help us shake off anxiety's distraction.**  
**As we pause,**  
**Help us see, that as you long for us,**  
**we might have HOPE in you.**  
**You know the end of our stories**  
**We give thanks because you've**  
**promised the grace we need each day.**  
**Send your Spirit**  
**into this Advent season.**  
**Renew our sense of HOLY ANTICIPATION!**  
**As we eagerly wait**  
**for Jesus to come again,**  
**fill our hearts with your HOPE! Amen.**

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