

**Forma Conference 2019  
Morning Prayer Thursday January 24th  
8:15am – Monument Hall**

**Opening Sentences Ps. 19 vv 7-8**

Leader: Send out your light and your truth, that they may guide us  
and lead us to your holy hill and to your dwelling.  
All: Open our lips, O Lord, that our mouths might sing your praise.

**Psalm 51 vv 10-12 (chanted)**

Cantor: Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
♪ All: Open our lips, O Lord, that our mouths might sing your praise.  
Cantor: Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
♪ All: Open our lips, O Lord, that our mouths might sing your praise.

Glory to the Creator and the Redeemer and to the Sustainer.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Song: Open my Heart**

*Leader rings bowl to start, and small bell to mark end of silence*

**Reading for the day: Isaiah 61:1-7**

**1** The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
**2** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
**3** and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the Lord  
for the display of his splendor.

**4** They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.

**5** Strangers will shepherd your flocks;  
foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

**6** And you will be called priests of the Lord,  
you will be named ministers of our God.

You will feed on the wealth of nations,  
and in their riches you will boast.

**7** Instead of your shame  
you will receive a double portion,  
and instead of disgrace  
you will rejoice in your inheritance.  
And so you will inherit a double portion in your land,  
and everlasting joy will be yours.

### **Brief Reflection on the Reading (Fiona)**

Silence. Leader rings bowl to start, and small bell to mark end of silence.

### **Prayer**

Leader: God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, we gather together today to learn how we can better serve you as servants to others. Give us open hearts to learn from those whom we know and those we have never met, open arms to embrace old and new friends and teachers, and open ears to mark, learn and understand all that we hear during this time of learning. Help us to be brave in our speaking, but also in our listening, to challenge our assumptions and privilege, to know that uncomfortable feelings give way to engagement and transformation. Lead us to a new vision of your dream for us as we work to love and form those who love you. Amen

### **Closing Song:**

Sent by the Lord am I, my hands are ready now,  
to make the earth the place in which the kingdom comes (*repeat*)  
The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain into a world of Love, of justice and of peace  
The task is mine to do, to set it really free, oh help me to obey, help me to do your will

### **Resources:**

*Liturgy based on St Gregory of Nyssa Morning Prayer*

*Open My Heart Ana Hernandez #31 Music By Heart*

Sent by the Lord Oral tradition Nicaraguan arr. Jorge Maldonado, WGRG Iona #79 MHSO