

Forma Conference 2019
Morning Prayer Friday January 25th

As you enter, you will find paper and markers. Please consider writing down a thanksgiving for something that was a highlight for you here at Forma 2019 - a particular keynote speech, a workshop, a new friendship etc. If you are attending this service virtually you can submit your thanksgivings under the hashtag #Formathanksgiving

Song for Meditation: What Does the Lord Require of You?

Pt 1: What does the Lord require of you, what does the lord require of you
Pt 2: Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God
Pt 3: To seek justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with your God

Blessing of Hands for Our Work in the World

Reader 1: We come together today to celebrate all those who work to form Christians.
Reader 2: We come to bless the work of our hands and hearts, the work God has called us to do.
Reader 3: In blessing our hands, we acknowledge that they are holy hands, given to fulfill divine purposes.
Reader 4: They are holy hands, given to reach out to one another, because we rely on one another and work together in this community to bring learning, healing and hope to all who come to us.
Reader 5: This blessing symbolizes our belief in the sacredness of our everyday lives and work.
Reader 6: Through this blessing we recognize the divine presence with us here and now.

**All stand around their table.*

Group 1: Spirit of Wisdom, we come seeking you for the work of formation you have given our hands to do. Thank you for working through our hands to show God's love.

Group 2: Creator and Sustainer, we thank you for the privilege of joining hands with those who search for God's presence, of walking with them at the very heart of their lives.

All: Help us to remember that by our presence, our words, and our actions, we offer to others your life, your hope, and your love. Help us never to use our hands to push away those whom we need, nor those who need us. Help us to reach for you in our moments of calm and frustration, anxiety and peace, grief and joy. Bless our hearts and hands, Holy Wisdom, and guide us to use them to make whole what is broken in our world.

**We anoint and bless the hands of our neighbor. Feel free to offer a blessing such as "May Divine Wisdom bless the work of your hands.")*

Closing Prayer

All: Divine Wisdom, Spirit of love and grace, may we feel your deepest blessing on the work of our hands. May your power within us touch all those we form, those we work with, and those we love. Bless our gifts as we continue to become all you created us to be in your divine image, now and always. Amen.

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:

Music:

"What Does the Lord Require of You?" Jim Strathdee # 153 MHSO

"Open My Heart" Ana Hernandez #31 Music By Heart; https://youtu.be/lei6rR_pcSc

Liturgy adapted from Blessing of hands by Jann Aldredge Clanton
<https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/blessing-of-hands/>