

FAST for CHANGE



BENEDICTIONS

Commission & Benediction

(based on Isaiah 51:4-5)

When we look around at our broken world,
it's easy to feel overwhelmed.
We see so much poverty and hunger,
violence and needless death;
so much pollution and greed,
selfishness and injustice.

But that's not the end of the story.
Into all of that brokenness,
hear again the words of God,
spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

*Listen to Me, My people.
My mercy and justice are coming soon.
My salvation is on the way.*

*My strong arm will bring justice to the
nations.
Even faraway lands will look to Me
and take hope in My saving power.*

As you go from here, carry that vision with
you.
Let it inspire your work and your witness,
your worship and prayer,
so that, in us and through us, God's will may
be done,
and God's kingdom come on earth as it is in
heaven.
And may the blessing of our Triune God
be among you and within you
in the days ahead.

— Christine Longhurst, <http://faithmatters.ca/>

Closing Prayer

(based on Psalm 67)

Merciful God, we ask for Your blessing.
Look with kindness on Your gathered people,
that we might reflect Your goodness to the world around us.

Then all of the nations will come to know Your ways
and acknowledge Your saving power.
They will praise You as we praise you now.
For You are a God of justice and compassion,
abundantly providing for the needs of the world.

Bless us, O God, and make us a blessing,
that the whole earth may come to experience
Your abundant goodness. Amen.

—Christine Longhurst/Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Commission & Benediction
(based on Matthew 14:22-33)

God calls us to step out in faith,
to follow where He leads
even if what He calls us to do seems
impossible,
and the needs around us seem
overwhelming.

So let's go from here with courage,
trusting in God's presence and power,
and eager to do God's will.
And may the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be among you and within you
wherever you find yourself this week.

—Christine Longhurst/Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Benediction
(based on Luke 12)

Do not worry about anything in life—
what you'll eat, or what you'll wear.
Look at the birds of the air,
or the flowers in the field.
If God takes such good care of birds and
flowers,
how much more will He care for you?

— Written by The Rev. Dr. Art Van Seters, Principal Emeritus, Knox College,
Toronto, and published in *Believe It! God's Riches are Here*, published by the **Presbyterian World Service &
Development**, www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd the development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

So don't be afraid.
Instead, let your lives be marked by
compassion and generosity,
sharing what you have been given with those
in need,
storing up your treasure in heaven
instead of here on earth.
And may the blessing of God—
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer—
encourage and strengthen you in every good
work.

—Christine Longhurst/Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Commission & Benediction

Go, knowing that your life has been touched
by grace.
Go, convinced that you are connected to a
larger world.
Go, filled with the love of the Gospel of
Christ.

May the blessing of God who loves you, be
yours;
the blessing of Jesus, the crucified, be yours;
the blessing of the Spirit, who resides in
you,
be yours, now and forever.