

## Benediction - Exhortation

### Shortened version:

I have been invited to send you off on this beautiful day at a time where paths to atonement are gloriously being revealed daily. When I was asked to do the benediction, I wasn't trying to be funny when I said: "perhaps it should include an exhortation" . So, here it is - an exhortation benediction.

I exhort you to:

Listen to us and our stories even if or, especially if, what we're saying makes you uncomfortable. We don't tell you our stories to hurt you – our stories aren't "about you", but, as we're all connected - you are implicated - that's likely why you're uncomfortable.

As Helen Keller said: I cried because I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet.

You must free yourself of your ignorance – you are not bad for this but, choosing to remain ignorant is not living in grace.

We're tired; we're tired of living it; and, we're tired of reliving it for you.

I say this with love – I am doing what Jesus taught me to do.

Rely on the strength of your faith, guided by the holy spirit to do that heavy lifting yourselves.

Go in the peace and courage of the Jesus and be safe.