

Bill: *This evolving benediction came to PPF from Clinton Marsh, moderator of the 185th General Assembly in 1973 and the first African American moderator of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, leading it in the 1990s. This benediction is one that we turn to often, passed from older generations to younger, with the understanding that it will continue to speak to us and empower us to act if we only listen deeply and engage with God's world and her people.*

Timothy: And now I am supposed to say, "go in peace," but how can I say "go in peace" when this global pandemic has forced us to meet virtually, changing our very ways of life

Gloria: And how can I tell you to "go in peace" when the coronavirus continues to disproportionately take the lives of Black and Brown people, leaving entire neighborhoods and families heartbroken

Steph: And how can I tell you to "go in peace" when climate change has not slowed down in devastating communities and threatening the futures of all God's creatures

Bill: And how can I tell you to "go in peace" when Black and Indigenous people continue to be killed by law enforcement without consequence or real change;

Rebecca: And how can I tell you to "go in peace" when many of us are settler-colonizers on the land we call "home" and yet we know very little of this history or the people who have stewarded this land for generations

Sam: And how can I tell you to "go in peace" when gun sales soared at the beginning of this pandemic and gun suicides and domestic gun violence have increased 19 % in some areas during Covid;

Rebecca: And how can I tell you to "go in peace" when the God we worship is one who came to be with us in the form of a dark-skinned, Palestinian Jew who was executed by the government for daring to preach that it is the poor of this world who God loves most

Emily: How can I say to you "go in peace" out into a world where each night millions of parents watch their children sink into a hungry slumber, only to wake up to face another hungry day, *if* they wake up.

Gloria: With a world like that out there, how can I dare to say to you go in peace? But I do say to you 'go in peace' because Jesus said, 'My peace I give you.'

Steph: And remember, he who said "My peace I give you" also said, "If you will be my disciple, and thereby inherit my peace, you must take up your cross and follow me."

Sam: So I do dare say to you, "Go in peace, if you dare"