

***Suggested closing words***  
*(from Amy Freedman)*

Become aware of the hands that you are holding  
Their warmth, texture, and weight

As an infant these same hands reached out  
for the nourishment of milk

As a child these hands shakily wrote a name  
on paper for the first time

These hands have wiped away tears,  
clenched in anger, waved hello and  
good-bye countless times  
and embraced loved ones

And now these hands are the tangible link  
that connect us to one another

These are hands that have worked, are working,  
and will work to make the world a better place

I invite you to look around and see those  
around  
you who have experienced so much that is life

May the circle be open but never broken

Go in peace  
Go in love  
Go forth and bless the world.

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