

April 19, 2016

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

*The state of this planet is a mess. We've turned earth, sky, and seas into a dump. Our mother is imploring us to clean it up. Yet a lot of us keep taking to our beds and pulling the covers over our heads. 'It's too big a problem, what can I do? Seven billion people – somebody else is smarter or more capable.' Yet, like the woman Peter gets out of bed in Lydda, and the daughter of Jairus Jesus raised earlier, there is hope – if we're willing to get up...*

*There are several things we can do, and keep doing, to see that everyone has a seat and a full plate. Most of those ways have ancient echoes from the journey toward "your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven."*

*That journey starts in gratitude and Sabbath rest – for every human being and every part of creation. Let the earth rest periodically, let the pasture renew its fertility for a season, take a rest from meat and January strawberries, discover the foods available here in this season and start experimenting with that abundance. Take a rest from frantic traffic and the chaos of airports. Tele-commute when you can. Try a vacation in the neighborhood, deepen your roots in native soil and explore the wonders around the corner. Slow down and spend time deepening friendships; reach out and discover new ones. Not only will the greenhouse cool a bit, but the banquet table and its fellowship will expand. Those connections and conscious interrelationships generate gratitude, and they will strengthen our shepherding.*

*Together we CAN change the course of the tragedy emerging around us.*

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori  
Sermon at Grace Church  
Sunday, April 17

Amen!

See you in church,  
Andrew