

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