

CELEBRATING THE CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK

A Sermon for the Second Sunday of Easter, April 23, 2017

St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops BC

The Very Rev. Ken Gray

NOTES ONLY - A video which provides an overview of the CFB ministry may be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZnZk2Xd3Ik>

TIME TO CELEBRATE – CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK

In concert with PWRDF, a priority for the CFB is hunger reduction globally which includes support for small farmers in Canada and globally

An extremely effective strategy which is often eclipsed by the claims of global enterprise. As Schumacher wrote in the 1970s, *small is beautiful*, because small enterprise in agriculture works

We receive many appeals through the PWRDF and CFB including:

Syria Response

South Sudan

African Drought

All good, all necessary, and yes, it does seem overwhelming at times. I encourage you to support financially all these Godly endeavours

A special personal interest, covering two concerns:

1) A need to support projects which focus specifically on climate change mitigation and adaptations, and

2) An acknowledgement of the cost in carbon and other elements when I travel by air (Carbon offsetting)

THE CFB CLIMATE FUND

Each of us has a role to play in addressing climate change. With public support and actions from people across the country, Canadian Foodgrains Bank has successfully influenced policy decisions in the past, such as the untying of food aid and increasing aid for agriculture. We can do the same on the issue of climate change and hunger. Public support plays an essential role in this, and you can be part of this in several ways:

- Explore ways you or your church can show care for God's creation.
- Write your MP to say you care about how climate change is affecting farmers around the world.
- Give to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank Climate Fund, which supports projects that help small-scale farmers adapt to climate change.
- Ending hunger requires many actions
 - supplying food in times of emergency or shortfall
 - providing support for agriculture
 - helping improve nutrition for families
 - enabling small-scale farmers to adapt to climate change

TURING TO TODAY'S GOSPEL John 20:19-31

When it was evening . . . the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, **'Peace be with you.'** After he said this, **he showed them his hands and his side.** Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, **'Peace be with you.** As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, '**Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.**' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

- 1) **God's desire** is peace for all . . .
- 2) Sometimes it's hard to think **how such blessing might occur** . . .
- 3) Sometimes we have to **put our own hands** (and heads, and hearts, and wealth) **into painful places** so that God's will be done . . .
- 4) While the phrase conjures up memories of Neville Chamberlain's misplaced optimism in 1938, we do in fact seek ***peace in our time***

PEACE IN OUR TIME

1 We walk by faith and not by sight;
with gracious words draw near,
O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke:
"My peace be with you here."

. . .

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near
and seek where you are found.