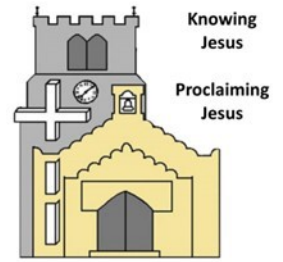


7th June 2020

Readings: Matthew 28:16-20

From Carol Hunter



Gospel, Grace and Gumption

Bishop Taylor Smith who was chaplain general in the British army in WW1 said that the three essential elements to Christian service were Gospel, Grace and Gumption (gumption according to the dictionary means: shrewd or spirited initiative and resourcefulness)

And we've been given our marching orders in our reading this morning because if we are followers of Jesus, we are also His disciples and these orders are for us here now as much as they were for them back then. What does it mean to get your marching orders? It means that you have been given some instructions from someone who is in authority over you, and those instructions tell you that it's time to move out, to go to work, that there's a job to be done.

The followers of Jesus have had a deeply challenging couple of months. His crucifixion was a deeply disorienting experience for them, dashing in a matter of hours the great hopes and dreams they all shared ~ they had lost one they loved and admired to a brutal execution. Then, to see Jesus alive after His death must have been utterly astonishing ~ mind-blowing. Nothing in their history of Jewish faith had prepared them for what was occurring. They must have struggled big time processing it ~ getting their heads around it.