

## **Sermon Notes Palm Sunday 2011**

- Jesus enters Jerusalem in a procession which would be recognised by a number of bystanders as messianic: it reveals that he was the Messiah
- The great theologian, Albert Schweitzer, held it unthinkable that this action did not reveal such a status, and used it to deny any validity to theories of the messianic Secret in which Jesus denies his Messiahship, and, conversely, such claims come not from him but from the Church.
- But Jesus' entry is subversive of contemporary understandings which, based on a typology from Moses or David, would expect a powerful, all-conquering warrior-king
- My boys' Children's Bible puts it well in a little dialogue. "What kind of Messiah...He should be riding a stallion or a war-horse"- "But this is Jesus, he wants to heal people, not to hurt them...."
- It is another of those occasions on which Jesus subverts the way we think things should be done.....
- Throughout history great military leaders have tended to sit safely back from the action. In WWI, they did so, and sent literally millions to their death
- When Jesus enters into Jerusalem only one person is sent to die.....