

Sermon Summary
4th in Lent
18th March 2012

- John uses the image of the serpent (Numbers 21) to describe Jesus.
- How do we get from a snake on a stick to Christ on the Cross?
- We might think the bronze serpent is a quaint myth, but it is worth considering how it gives a pictorial image of the medical reality of antidotes and vaccinations.
- John uses three principles of Jewish interpretation of Scripture to make his point
- Typology- OT events anticipate and illuminate the life of Christ and the work of God- famous examples include the sacrifice of Isaac and the priesthood of Melchizedek (Hebrews)
- Correspondence in history- scripture is never read simply to find its historical meaning. Interpreting scripture has not been completed until the readers apply it to their own time and place.
- A pun- the serpents are seraphim. These are not chunky angels with feathery wings. Isaiah 6 will call them messengers.
- Jesus thus becomes God's messenger raised up who brings healing to his people.
- As in the Exodus story, Jesus becomes the source of healing for those who come to him.

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