

Chat with the Children

- Intro **knock, knock** jokes
 - tell the jokes I have
 - get some suggestions from congregation
 - *Introduce thought of announcing who we are as we come to visit someone...*
 - **Jesus did this in his arrival in Jerusalem...**
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Introduction

- Introduction to the series
 - about the Cross, its centrality, about the proportion of Mark's (and other gospels) taken up with it, about how I get frustrated trying to deal with the whole of Easter week in Easter week...

Knock, Knock - who's there?

- Who does Jesus' actions here lay claim to him being?
 - who can organise events, like the colt
 - who fulfils specific prophecies
 - who accepts praise as of the Messiah
 - who enters in procession as a King
 - who controls nature - the fig tree - in blessing and in curse
 - who exerts authority over the place of God's presence, the Temple
- Who do we know Jesus to be? How tame is our God?
 - do we truly declare him Lord over our lives, or do we mutter in the shadows as the priests and teachers of the Law did?

Why am I here?

- Existential questions we sometimes have...
 - but Jesus comes with confidence, with purpose, with authority
 - heading for the Cross - comes in the context of setting his face towards Jerusalem, despite the increasing opposition of the Pharisees etc, and even when his own disciples sought to dissuade him...

Application

- First, is the Cross central to us?
 - Second, do we have from God that clear sense of purpose about what our lives are for, to declare his praise and do his will?