Sermon:

Have you ever laughed at a funeral? Or cried at a wedding? Usually life events are multi-emotional.

That is what makes them interesting and worthwhile. Imagine a totally sad funeral, or ‘manic’ wedding!?

True for Christian festivals. Christmas has its squalor, and the masscare of Herod; Pentecost is when the church had to grow up; in communion we remember the sacrifice of Jesus.

True for what we remember today.

Harvest – thanks to God, hard work rewarded, yet ruined crops, hunger around the world, food waste.

Palm Sunday – celebration as the king comes to town, yet we know what is to come and how Jesus as king was misunderstood and used by Caiaphas, Pilate, those who mocked at the cross (eg Luke 23.37).

This is not a call for ‘spoiling’ life events. Let us rejoice over a diamond wedding anniversary, over a graduation, for 20 years at our Affordables shop; let us console those diagnosed with cancer, or who have lost a job, or who have broken up with a boy/girlfriend.
Joy is tinged with sorrow, sorrow is lightened with joy.

This does not spoil these moments but makes them more precious.

Luke 19.40: For Jesus not to shut the mouths of the disciples and thus provoke his enemies, makes Palm Sunday more poignant.

It is almost as if he deliberately misleads disciples and enemies with ‘kingship’, so that the events of Holy Week are forced to be played out (ie Gethsemane, betrayal, denial, trial, death).

So come on a journey with me. [1] come along to our Holy Week services [2] Read Luke 19.28-23.56, a part each day. So let us enter into the whole of the emotional and spiritual importance of this week, rather than skip from celebration of Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. We need the joy tinged with sorrow for the Resurrection of Jesus to mean anything.