

***They will beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.***

Isaiah 2,4-5

This prophecy of Isaiah which accompanies our Advent journey to welcome the Prince of Peace has encouraged me to offer you a picture of this tree which I discovered during my visits to the British Museum.

If you look closely, you will see that it was made from metal elements, all of which are, in fact, weapons. It represents the work of artists in Mozambique who, after years of civil war in their country, wanted to prevent the buried but still present weapons from speaking again.

So they turned the weapons into sculptures and this one was commissioned by the British Museum and Christian Aid.

This tree also speaks to me of the tiny mustard seed that Jesus tells us becomes a great tree where the birds of the air make their nests in its branches. A tree of peace whose seed we can sow as we prepare the way for the Prince of Peace.

So as I look at it, I can ask myself:

- How do I welcome Isaiah's prophecy where I am? ...where I am on my Advent journey?
- What feelings does it evoke in me?
- Are there "weapons" in my daily life with which I can choose to build relationships of welcome, of sharing, that I may walk more in the light of the Lord? A beautiful and good path towards welcoming the One who is all Peace.