

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – B  
*Message Series #4*

When we come to mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning we will hear a reading from the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah. He was writing at a time when the world around him seemed to be filled with darkness and gloom. Yet he was not without hope... for he foresaw the birth of a child whom he named the Prince of Peace. The child would be of the House of David as we heard in the scripture readings today. He would change the situation of the darkness and gloom into one of light and joy. That child is Jesus.

In reflecting on someone who understood Jesus as the “Prince of Peace” I thought of St. Francis of Assisi who wrote a prayer about peace. The prayer gives “flesh” to one of the Jesus’ beatitudes: “Blessed are the peacemakers.” Francis writes:

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love;*

*Where there is injury, pardon;*

*Where there is despair, hope;*

*Where there is darkness, light;*

*And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,*

*Grant that I may not so much seek*

*To be consoled as to console;*

*To be understood, as to understand;*

*To be loved, as to love;*

*For it is in giving that we receive,*

*It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,*

*And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.*

*Amen.*

Perhaps you can use this prayer as part of your Christmas celebration? The world even today can seem to be a place of darkness and gloom. Are you willing to be a peacemaker following in the footsteps of the Prince of Peace?