

Grace & Peace

DECEMBER 6, 2011

THE EMPTY CLASSROOM: AN ADVENT PRAYER

LAST SUNDAY WE PREACHED AND MOURNED TOGETHER about the dark, empty classroom where Kindergarten through Second Graders used to fill the room with story and song. Many of you have been their teachers, their parents, their guardians in the faith. Now they are grown up, they are gone. And the room is a store room: an old window blind is tossed across a messy table. There is a discarded boom box with a broken antenna. Maybe it was used to play “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” There are toys and books gathering dust. The room is dark, empty, unused.

If you wonder if Advent is for real, think about that empty, unused classroom. Advent is the time when we quiet ourselves and listen and watch for the coming of Our Rescuer. Because things are not the way they’re supposed to be. Because that classroom should be filled with singing, and loving teachers, and children learning about Jesus and the Bible.

If we have trouble yearning for a Rescuer (because we can take care of our own lives, thank you very much), then that empty classroom and the great gap in our ministry to young families should help us to yearn. We cannot fill those classrooms with life and love and singing and learning on our own. We need a Rescuer to come to our aid.



In this season of Advent we pray for Jesus to come again and set the world aright. And that extends to the empty Kindergarten-Second Grade Classroom in the church on the hill on Angell Road in Cumberland, Rhode Island.

Would you pray with me for the Rescuer? Would you pray with me that Jesus will come and renew and heal our church. That is an Advent prayer.



