

“But Where Are the Lamps?”

The story is told of a certain village in Europe several centuries ago, where a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. At last he decided to build a church building.

No one saw the complete plans for the church until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, “But where are the lamps? How will it be lighted?”

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave to each family a lamp that they were to bring with them each time they came to worship. “Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted. Each time you are not here, that area will be dark.

This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God’s house will be dark.”

1. Is there not a sense in which that is true in this place today’?
2. The building is here.., the “brackets” are here.., but where are the lamps?