

MY WORSHIP N' COLOUR BOOK

An exploration of worship for children

Part 1: My Worship at Church

Chris and little friend Selah will help you
as you make your way through this book about worship in Church.



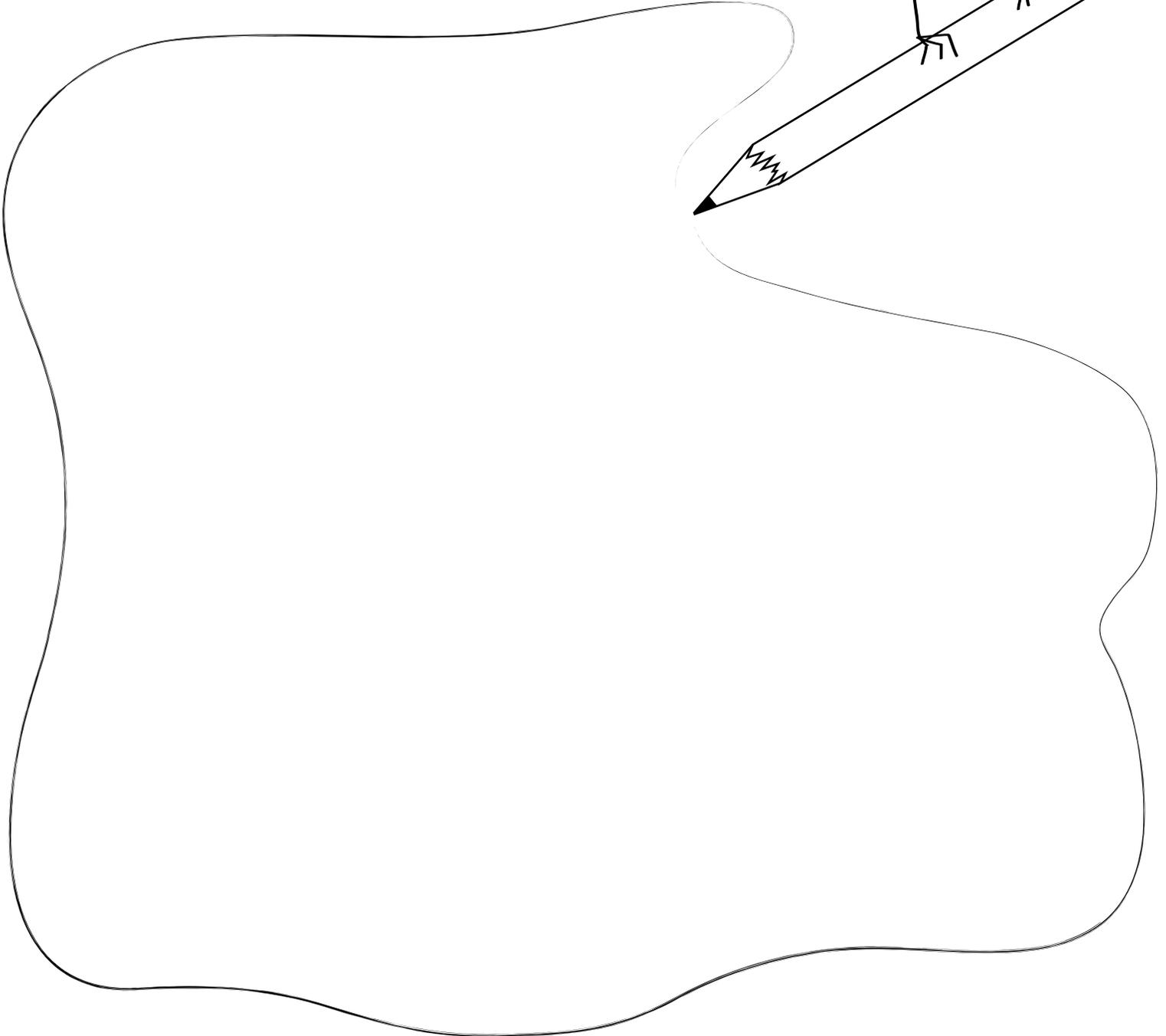
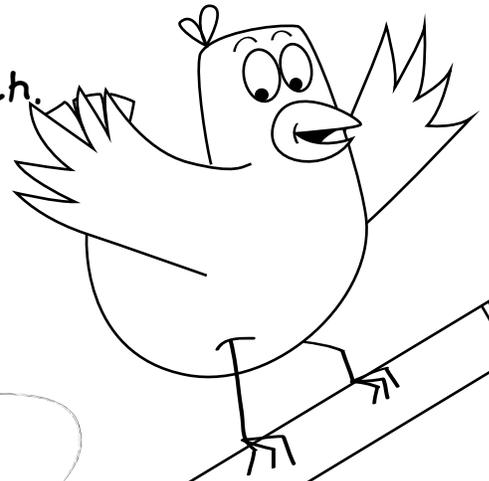
Church is a place

My Church is where we worship together.

My church is called _____

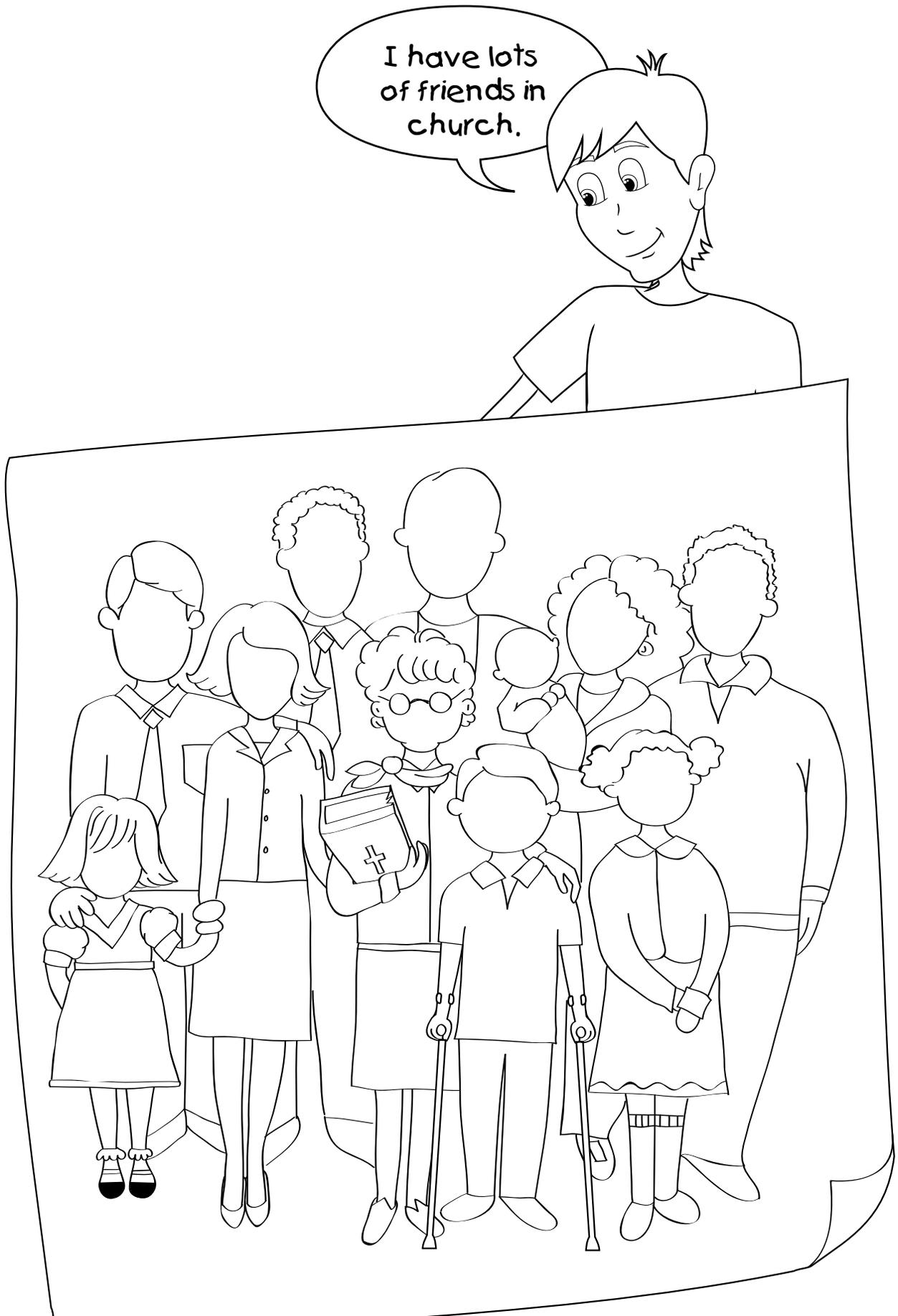
Draw a picture of your favourite place in church.

Why do you like this place?



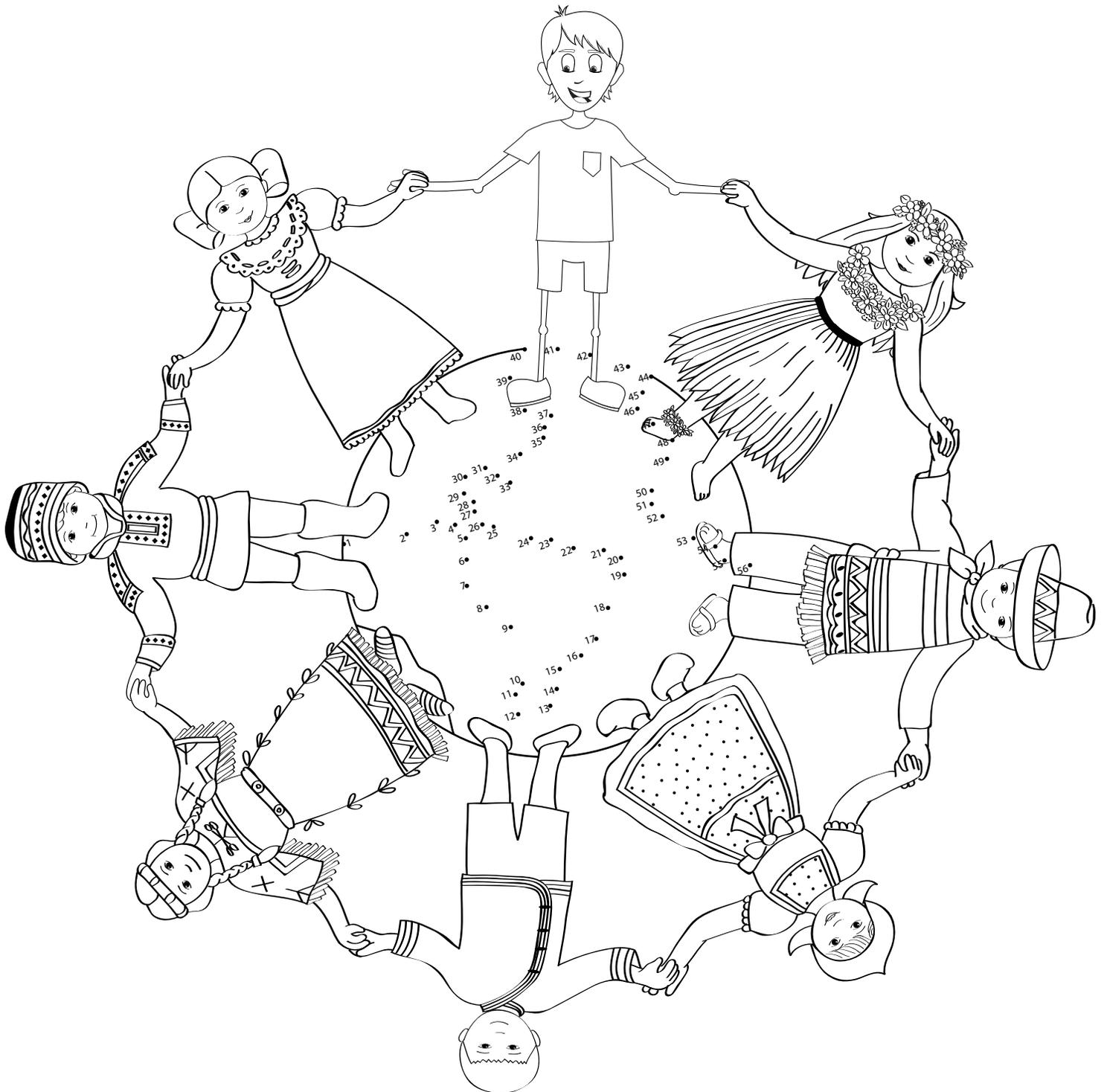
Church is a family

Chris has started a picture of your friends at church. Can you finish it?



Church around the World

There are people who follow Jesus all over the World.
Connect the dots to finish the picture.



Dear Parents,

Children are a vital and precious part of the family of God and belong in congregational worship! Children are active, whole bundles of energy, imagination, intuition and curiosity. They are highly sense-oriented and have distinct relational needs and skills. As participants in congregational worship children observe and practice many actions they do not understand. Even so, they can respond deeply to the symbols, sounds, and actions of worship and, they bless the gathered congregation in many ways.

Children absorb the attitudes of the people around them. If others are relaxed and exhibit devotion, children learn to respond with reverence. This is so even when a child's need to move makes it seem otherwise. Appropriate worship posture in children can be encouraged by giving their active bodies chances to move in non-disruptive ways. Standing up and responding with simple spoken or sung refrains, inviting them to participate in the communal gathering of our offerings, greeting each other and sharing the peace of Christ are just a few actions that can help children participate in worshipful behaviour.

But Mennonite worship also involves a lot of sitting. Some congregations already provide activity resources such as children's bulletins to help children tolerate longer periods of sitting still. These resources are generally focused on a scriptural theme rather than on the act of worship and its meaning.

It is important for children to learn about, and understand the spiritual act of worship. In response to this need, Mennonite Church Canada is planning a series of children's activity booklets for worship time, from a Mennonite perspective. We want to assist our congregations and their families as they model and promote worshipful behaviour in children and, to help us together recognize the importance of children within the family of God.

These booklets will introduce children to the essentials of worship and mission while providing an activity outlet for their minds and hands. The booklets feature the cartoon characters, Chris and Selah, who already enliven the Advent and Lent at-home devotional guides. Children are encouraged to email Chris and Selah with questions and comments at chrisandselah@mennonitechurch.ca. We hope Chris and Selah will provide meaningful points of contact for the children of our church. The first in this projected series is being released in the fall of 2011. We hope these booklets will bless your children in worship.

The projected series will include these topics:

- My Church at Worship
- My Quiet Worship
- My Active Worship
- Special Times in Worship

We'd love to know what you think about this planned resource. **Would you help us by completing a short 7- question evaluation?** (See www.surveymonkey.com/s/WorshipColourBook.) If you do, we'll enter your child's name in a draw to **win a 12" Chris action figure, with movable arms and legs, along with a little Selah figure**, which will take place on March 1, 2012.

To download more copies of this booklet go to www.mennonitechurch.ca/tiny/1646

Thank you,

Elsie Rempel



Formation consultant
Mennonite Church Canada



600 Shaftesbury Blvd Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4
TF: 1-866-888-6785 • T: 204-888-6781 • F: 204-831-5675
E: office@mennonitechurch.ca • www.mennonitechurch.ca

©2011 Mennonite Church Canada
May be reproduced for congregational use