

There will be no Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. on January 24 so that all may attend the mid-year congregational meeting at 10 a.m. You will receive a *FUUN for All Ages—Connection Without Zoom* that week with information about our [5th Principle](#), some of what will take place at the meeting, including a vote as to whether FUUN will adopt the [8th Principle](#), and coloring sheets and such that may better allow your child(ren) to be present during the meeting.

## FUUN FOR ALL AGES—CONNECTION WITHOUT ZOOM

*20 December 2020*

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Dear All:

These materials can supplement the worship service before, during, and/or after the service. *They can also stand alone and be used at any time you wish.* In this time of so many kinds of fatigue, the hope is that families, children, youth, adults, anyone of any age, alone or as a group... everyone can have one more way, a way that has nothing to do with Zoom, to stay connected. **This is our single greatest goal right now: To. Stay. Connected.**

Meanwhile, this Sunday's Zoom gatherings are:

10:30 a.m.

All Ages—Family Games

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89770398199>

11:30 a.m.

Youth Group—9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Graders @

<https://zoom.us/j/94148119890?pwd=L1FYQXh0emp2TzJNUTZsWWxxZkt2Zz09>

*Please stay in touch.* If you have questions, suggestions, concerns, anything at all... I would truly love to hear from you.

Blessings.

*Marguerite*

Marguerite Mills

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**[P.S. See page 14 for a special opportunity to Side with Tennesseans Affected by COVID.](#)**

20 December 2020

## Calling the Sun Back: Winter Solstice

Chelsea Henry, Worship Associate

Blessed Winter Solstice! There are times when the sun goddess is so brokenhearted and grieving that she hides herself in a cave. Friends and laughter help bring her back, so that her light and warmth shines again.

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## STORY: AMATERASU

*The Time for All Ages this week is a story about Amaterasu, the Japanese Shinto goddess of the sun. As is the case with most ancient myths, there are varying levels of violence in the different tellings of the story of Amaterasu—use your own judgement regarding how you tell the story with your child(ren).*



Amaterasu Ō-mikami was the first daughter of the two creationist deities, the god Izanagi and goddess Izanami. The pair had formed every piece of the land of the Earth, from the mountains rising into the sky to the waters of the oceans stirring around the land. Once the Earth had been formed, Izanagi and Izanami wished to create life to frolic upon their creation. They gave birth to Amaterasu, whose radiance and beauty did nothing but bring utter joy to her parent's life. She was placed in the sky for all to see, and now protects the day in the form of the sun. Amaterasu had two siblings who were born soon after, the god of the moon – Tsuki-yomi, a peaceful and composed child who was a fraction as bright as his sister – and the god of the seas – Susano-O, a boy with an awful temperament who was prone to violence. Susano's rage and love of wreaking havoc upon the ocean eventually led him to be demoted to God of the underworld, but that is a story for another day.

One day, while weaving on her loom, Susano-O horridly attacked Amaterasu. Infuriated by how beautiful and beloved she was, he killed the girl's mare and tossed it into her weaving room, ruining all the looms and projects she had created. It is said that Susano's rage was so great that he killed one of the attendant girls in the room and attacked Amaterasu herself, causing the gentle goddess to flee her palace. Amaterasu sought refuge in a cave within the mountains, refusing to shine her light and joy upon the world anymore. Slowly, the Earth began to wither and die, causing demons to crawl from the underworld and wreak their own chaos upon the people, other animals, plants, and land upon its surface.

Knowing the world was in a desperate state, the Gods and Goddesses assembled outside the cave and attempted to lure Amaterasu out to shine her light on the Earth once more. After a useless string of begging and pleading, Uzume – the Goddess of laughter – created a clever plan. She placed a large mirror facing Amaterasu's cave against a nearby rock, hung jewels from the trees, and began to dance around, urging the other Gods and Goddesses to do the same. Their festivities were so intriguing to the sun Goddess that she couldn't help but to ask what was happening outside, to which Uzume replied "We have found a new and much better sun goddess!" This caused Amaterasu to peek out of the cave to see what the ruckus was about; and when she did, Amaterasu caught sight of her own reflection in the mirror. Hypnotized by her own beauty, she left the cave – which was quickly sealed off with a giant rock to prevent her from hiding away once again – and soon found herself immersed in the amusement of her friends and family.

Unable to continue frowning for her misfortune, Amaterasu let her light shine upon the Earth once more. And just as quickly as they came, the demons and disease set upon the land receded to the Underworld with Susano-O, and the Earth was bathed in sunlight once more.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*Adapting for age, consider...*

- Have you ever been jealous of a sibling, or a cousin, or a best friend? Why? How did it feel? Did you do anything about it?
- Has a sibling, or a cousin, or a best friend ever been jealous of you? Why? How did it feel? Did you do anything about it?
- Have you ever argued or fought with a sibling, or a cousin, or a best friend? How did that go?
- Have you ever just wanted to run away and hide from the world? Why? What did that feel like? How did it turn out?
- Has anyone ever helped you to feel better, deal with depression, that sort of thing?
- Have you ever helped anyone to feel better, deal with depression, that sort of thing?
- How do you feel when the winter days are shorter and there's so much darkness? Do you ever think that the sun just won't ever shine very much again?
- What does it mean to hope that the sun will come back/that things will improve?
- Are there times when you know that the sun will come back/that things will improve? How is that knowing different from hope?
- Are there advantages to shorter days and more darkness? What are they?
- Are there things you learn during the shorter, darker days that help when the days are longer and sunnier?
- What things from these pandemic times do you think are good, things that you'd like to keep even when the pandemic is over?

## ACTIVITIES

Amaterasu did much weaving of beautiful robes for all the gods. Try some weaving for yourself:

### Make a God's Eye



*Traditionally, a God's Eye was a spiritual symbol, and the weaving process was reflective and meditative. The points of a God's Eye represent the four elements of nature: earth, fire, air and water, and the center of the ornament represents the eye of God, which is believed to have the power to see and understand things that the human eye cannot.*

#### Materials:

- Sticks: chopsticks, craft sticks, bamboo skewers, straight sticks from outside
- Yarn of different colors

#### Instructions

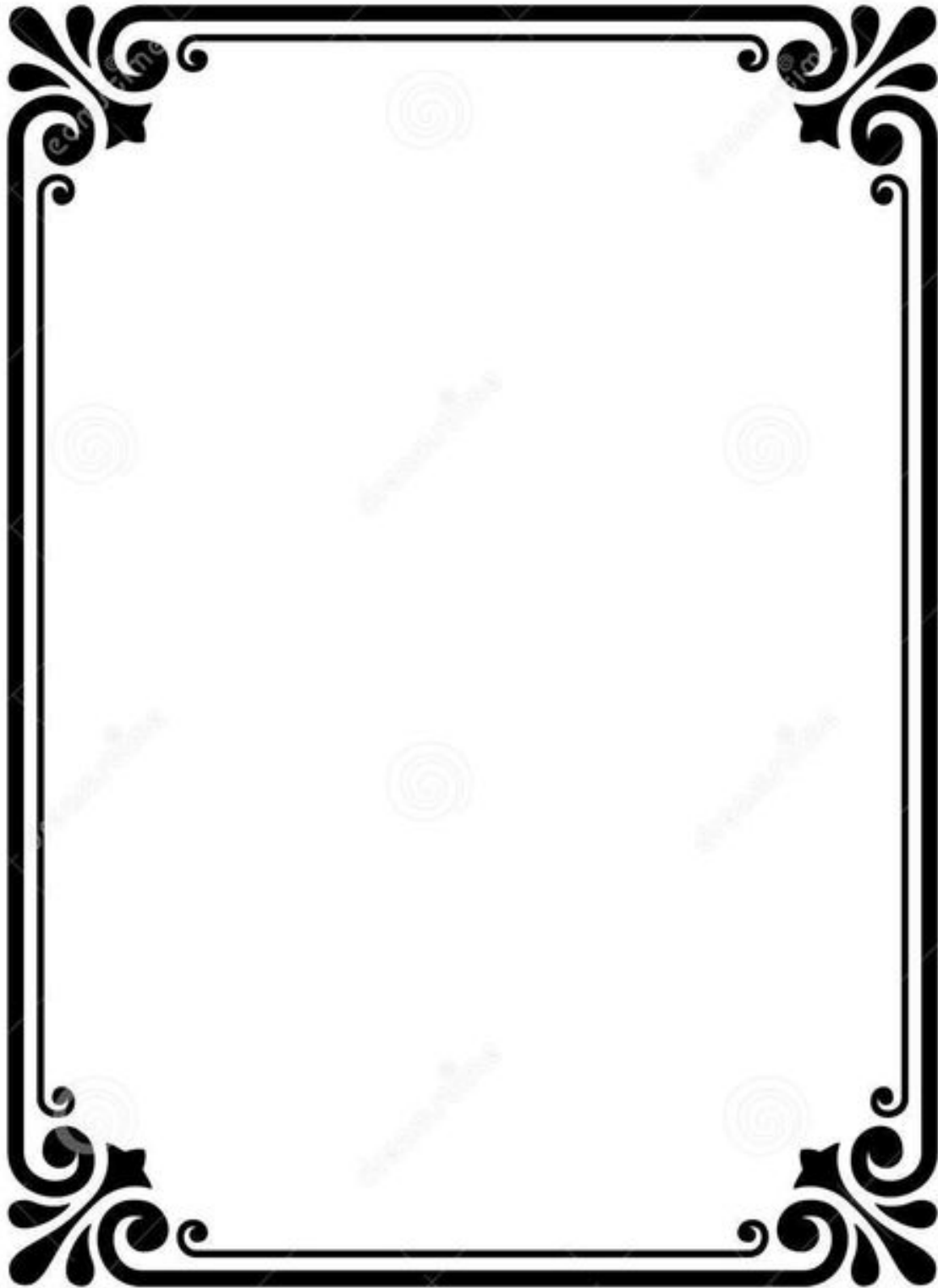
1. Hold two sticks in a cross shape
2. Wrap yarn around them to keep the sticks stable
3. Start weaving by wrapping the yarn around one stick, close to the center of the God's eye, and take it over to the next stick
4. Wrap it around that stick, and then take it to the next stick
5. Continue wrapping and winding in that way, rotating your God's Eye as you work.
6. Whether you wrap the yarn over the sticks or under doesn't matter, as long as you are consistent
7. When you're finished with the color, tuck the thread inside the last tight strand to stop it from unravelling
8. Start the next color, finishing it off as you did the last color.
9. Continue with as many colors as you wish until you have almost reached the end of the sticks
10. Tie the last piece of yarn into a loop and hang your God's Eye on your wall, or bedpost, or lamp, etc.

### Try Some Finger Knitting

There are many tutorials that show how to finger knit. Try this [YouTube tutorial](#) or this [photo tutorial](#).

**Do a Mirror Portrait**

Imagine that you are looking in a mirror and draw a picture of what you think you look like.



Amaterasu didn't recognize her own reflection— go look in a mirror and see how accurate you were!

## Welcome the Light, a Ritual

National Geographic tells us “The winter solstice marks the exact moment when half of Earth is tilted the farthest away from the sun. It usually happens on December 21 or 22, at the exact same second around the world.

Because less sunlight reaches Earth, the winter solstice is also the day of the year with the least amount of daytime, known as the shortest day of the year. But the good news is that every day after the winter solstice will be a little longer, until we reach the day with the most hours of daylight. Called the summer solstice, it usually occurs between June 20 and June 22.”

In the Pagan tradition, the winter solstice is celebrated as Yule, a festival of light, or of the sun. Try a pagan ritual to welcome back the light:

Set up as many candles as you like, including your Unitarian Universalist chalice(s), designating one as the sun candle. Turn off all the lights in your home (or as many as is possible for you).

Face the candles, and say:

*The wheel of the year has turned once more,  
and the nights have grown longer and colder.  
Tonight, the darkness begins to retreat,  
and light begins its return once again.  
As the wheel continues to spin,  
the sun returns to us once more.*

Light the sun candle, and say:

*Even in the darkest hours,  
even in the longest nights,  
the spark of life lingered on.  
Lying dormant, waiting, ready to return  
when the time was right.  
The darkness will leave us now,  
as the sun begins its journey home.*

Beginning with the candles closest to the sun candle, and working your way outward, light each of the other candles. As you light each one, say:

*As the wheel turns, light returns.  
The light of the sun has returned to us,  
bringing life and warmth with it.*

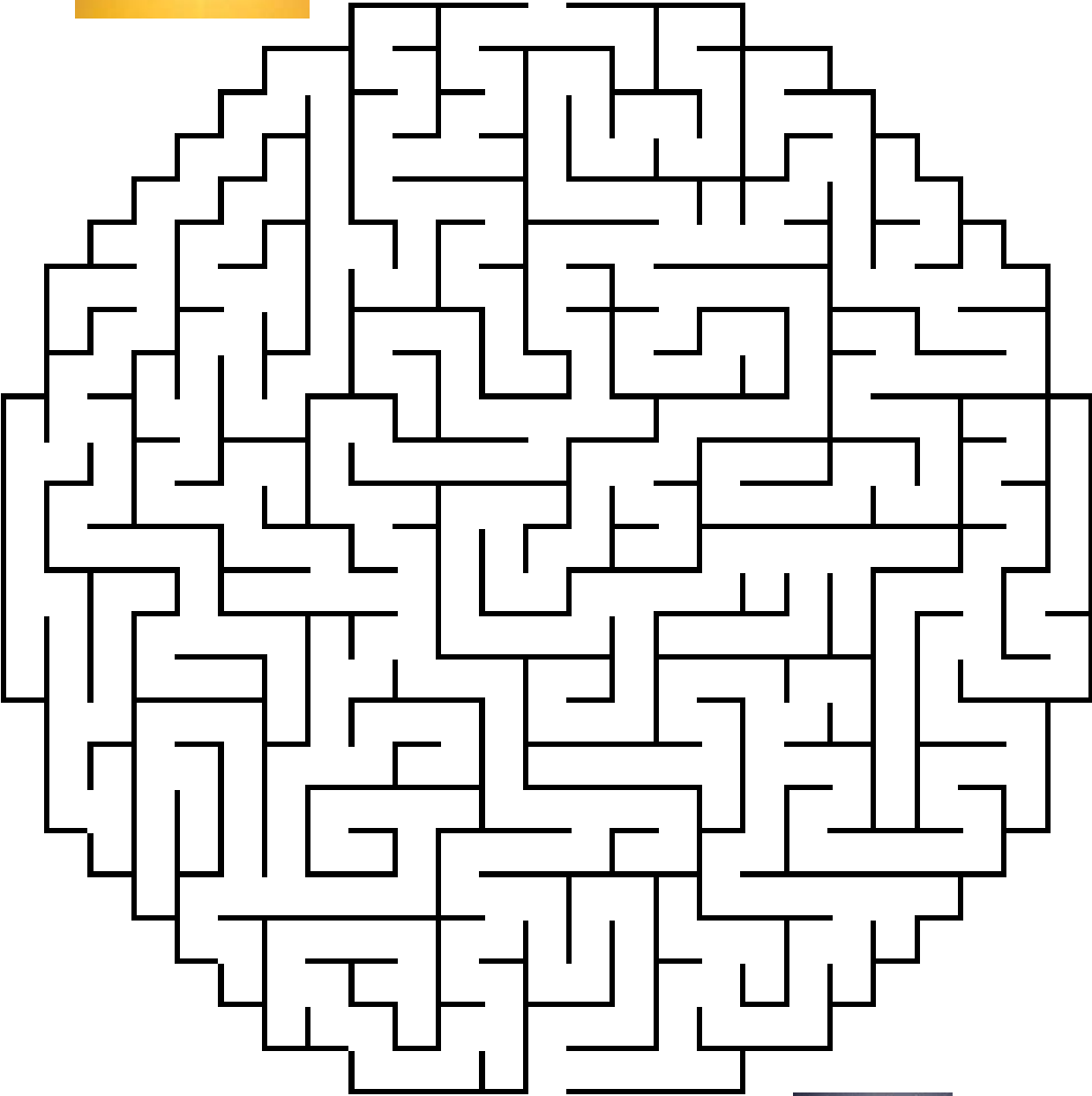
*The shadows will vanish, and life will continue.*

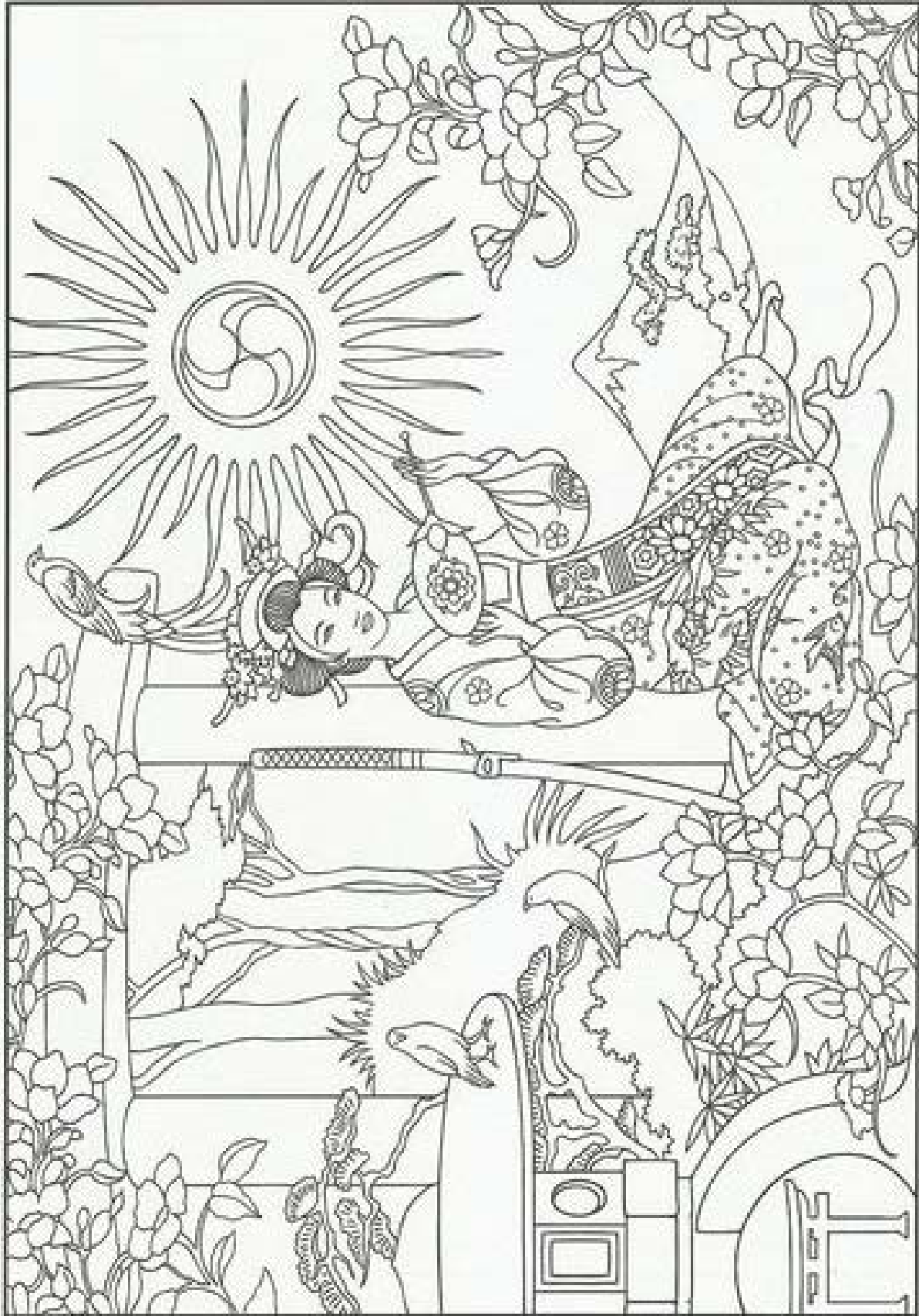
*We are blessed by the light of the sun.*

Take a moment to think about what the return of the sun means to you. The return of the light meant many things to different cultures. How does it affect you, and your loved ones? When you're ready, go through the house and turn all the lights back on. Make it a game: yell out, "Welcome back, sun!" as you turn on the lights in each room.



Lead Amaterasu out of the darkness of the cave and back into the sun...

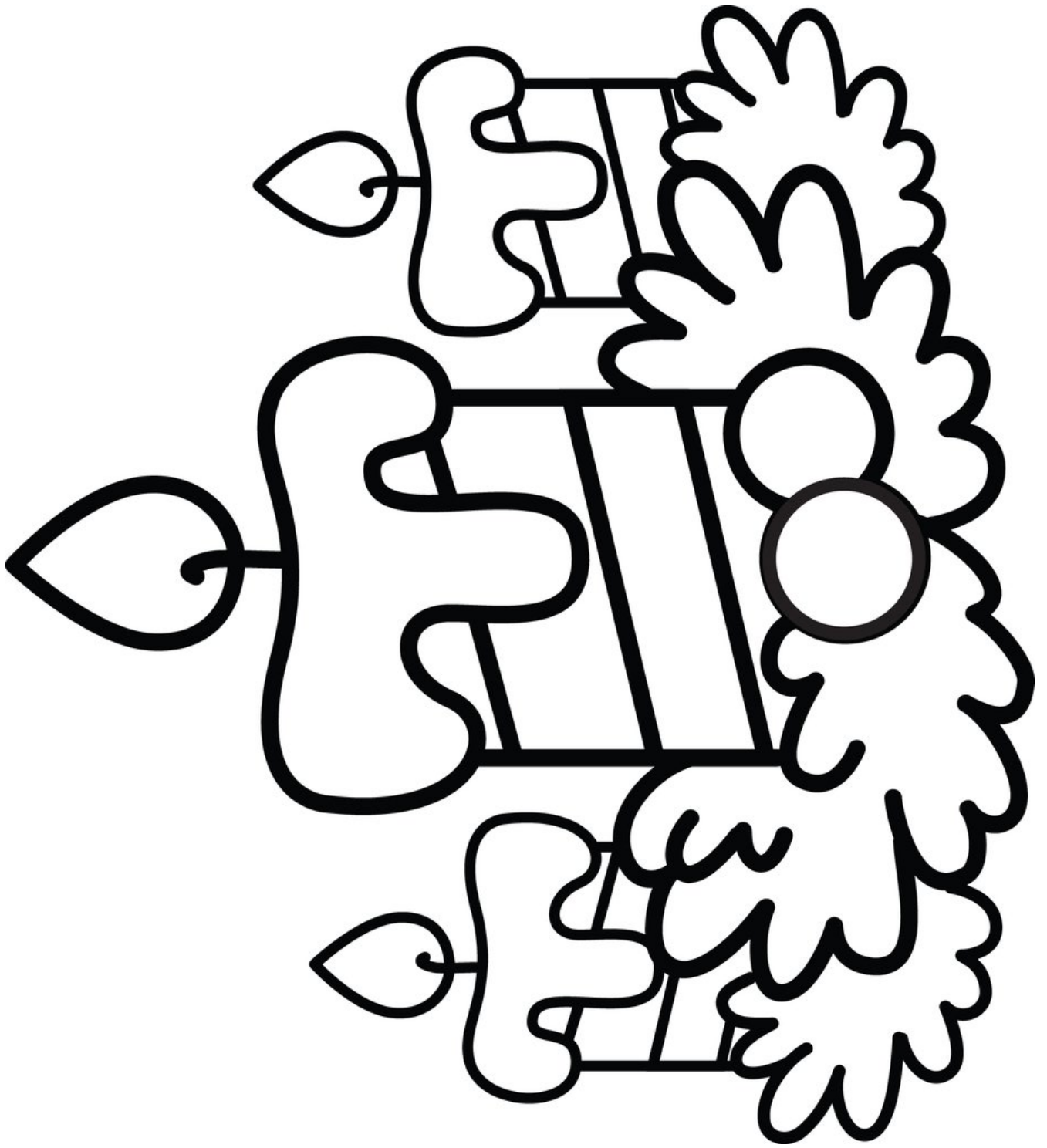




The Japanese sun goddess Amaterasu allows people to see their beauty and potential; she is considered the predecessor of the Japanese Imperial family.

# Winter Solstice







## **SIDE WITH TENNESSEANS AFFECTED BY COVID**

*A COVID-Related Action by NOAH (Nashville Organized for Action and Hope), an organization of which FUUN is a member.*

In Tennessee to date, 5000+ of our fellow citizens have died from the COVID-19 virus. In all areas of the state, our brothers and sisters continue to suffer.

Many who have no money for rent are facing eviction. Families struggle to provide adequate food and health care. Jobs for many have shut down or disappeared entirely.

Governor Lee still refuses to issue a statewide mask mandate, even though COVID deaths are *twice* as high in counties with no such mandate. On November 17, Governor Lee said, “The strategy we are taking is actually working... may be working better than a mask mandate would.” On that date, 3995 Tennesseans had died of COVID-19. On December 8, that number had climbed to 5,109.

NOAH is asking that Governor Lee and our state government do the following:

- Issue a statewide mask mandate;
- Immediately free up the surplus of \$740 million in federal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds to help low-income families with children.

NOAH is holding a PUBLIC ACTION on *Tuesday, December 29*, calling on Governor Lee to take these actions.

### **What can you do?**

1. Watch for more info on the ACTION!
2. Help make STARS to be used in this action – one for each Tennessean who has died – 5000 stars!

We are making stars:

- In **memory** of those who have died and
- In **hope** for those who survive.

Please sign up [online](#) for how many stars you are willing to make.

Instructions for making the stars are also [online](#).

**Completed stars can be dropped off at:**

- NOAH offices at the MNEA Building at 521 Fairground Court,
- or a covered bin outside of Morgan House at FUUN. There will be a plastic tub outside under the awning, starting on *Saturday, December 26, 10 a.m.* until *Monday, December 28, 6 p.m.*

## APPENDIX I. PRINCIPLES & SOURCES

### The Rainbow Principles

*Chorus*

*We are all the colors of the rainbow  
Each of us unique yet united as a whole  
Every single you a blessed individual  
Together we live these rainbow principles*

RED!

Stands for respecting other people

ORANGE!

Offering fair and kind treatment

YELLOW!

Puts the yearning in your learning

GREEN!

Grow in your search for truth & meaning

*Chorus*

BLUE!

Believe in what you are achieving

INDIGO!

Insist on freedom, love, and peace

VIOLET!

Value the web that does not cease

*Chorus*

*(This is also a [song by Mindy Simmons](#) that your kids may already know.)*

### The Seven Principles \*

*We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:*

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

*\* There is an 8<sup>th</sup> Principle currently being considered:*

8. Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

## CHILDREN'S SOURCES

*Our values come from many sources:*

- ∞ The sense of wonder that we all share;
- ∞ Women and men of long ago and today whose lives remind us to be kind and fair;
- ∞ Ethical and spiritual wisdom from the world's religions;
- ∞ Jewish and Christian teachings that tell us to love others as we love ourselves;
- ∞ The use of reason and discoveries of science;
- ∞ The harmony of nature and the sacred circle of life.

## SIX SOURCES

*The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:*

- ∞ Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- ∞ Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- ∞ Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- ∞ Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- ∞ Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.
- ∞ Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature



## APPENDIX II. CHALICES, CHALICES, CHALICES

### Make your own chalice



#### Materials:

- Small clay flowerpot with detached saucers
- Embellishments: markers, paint, stickers, ribbon, whatever you like
- Tea light
- Glue gun, optional

#### Instructions

- Decorate the pot and saucer as you like
- Turn the flowerpot upside down and place the saucer on top (see picture)
- If you wish, glue the saucer to the pot
- Place the tea light in the saucer

Then light your chalice and say some words, and don't forget to extinguish it. You might use a chalice lighting and a chalice extinguishing from the following two pages. Or on the page after that, you might write your own!

## SELECTED CHALICE LIGHTINGS

### **A Child's Chalice Lighting of Gratitude for the Earth**

*By Karen G. Johnston*

What if when  
I light the chalice,  
you hear an invitation  
to welcome gratitude  
for the earth?

This week, as I got ready to light the chalice,  
my family talked about blessings  
from this planet.

Here is my list:  
*[list 3-7 things]*

And now, with this flame of hope  
shedding light in your heart:  
what is *your* list?

### **Welcoming the Stranger**

*By Tracy Bleakney*

A child journeys far from home  
Fearful and brave,  
in need of safe harbor.  
Guided by this chalice, may we seek to understand the causes of flight.  
Like the comfort of a candle flickering in a window of darkness,  
Let us welcome this child into our home with  
warmth, nourishment, and love.  
Would we not want the same for our own child,  
lost and alone in a strange land?

### **Many of the Past Generation and Many of Today...**

*By Sophia Lyon Fahs*

Many of the past generation and many of today have found three abiding values in prayer: the quiet  
meditation on life,  
the reaching out toward the universal and the infinite,  
and the courageous facing of one's profoundest wishes.  
Let parents sense and share with their children the glory and mystery of everyday things.  
Let them look with sympathy upon humanity's age-long dilemmas.  
Let no questions be taboo.  
The next generation can ill afford to have the deeper values deleted from the book of life.

## **SELECTED CHALICE EXTINGUISHINGS**

### **As Breath to Song**

*By Becky Laurent, adapted*

As flame is to spirit, so spirit is to breath, and breath to song. Though we extinguish this flame for now, may we tend it in our hearts until we light it again.

### **Daring Vision**

*By Maureen Killoran*

We extinguish this chalice flame,  
daring to carry forward the vision of this free faith,  
that freedom, reason and justice  
will one day prevail in this nation and across the earth.

### **It Becomes More**

*By Amy Zucker Morgenstern*

When we take fire from our chalice, it does not become less.  
It becomes more.  
And so we extinguish our chalice, but we take its light and warmth with us,  
multiplying their power by all of our lives, and sharing it with the world.

Write your own chalice lighting!

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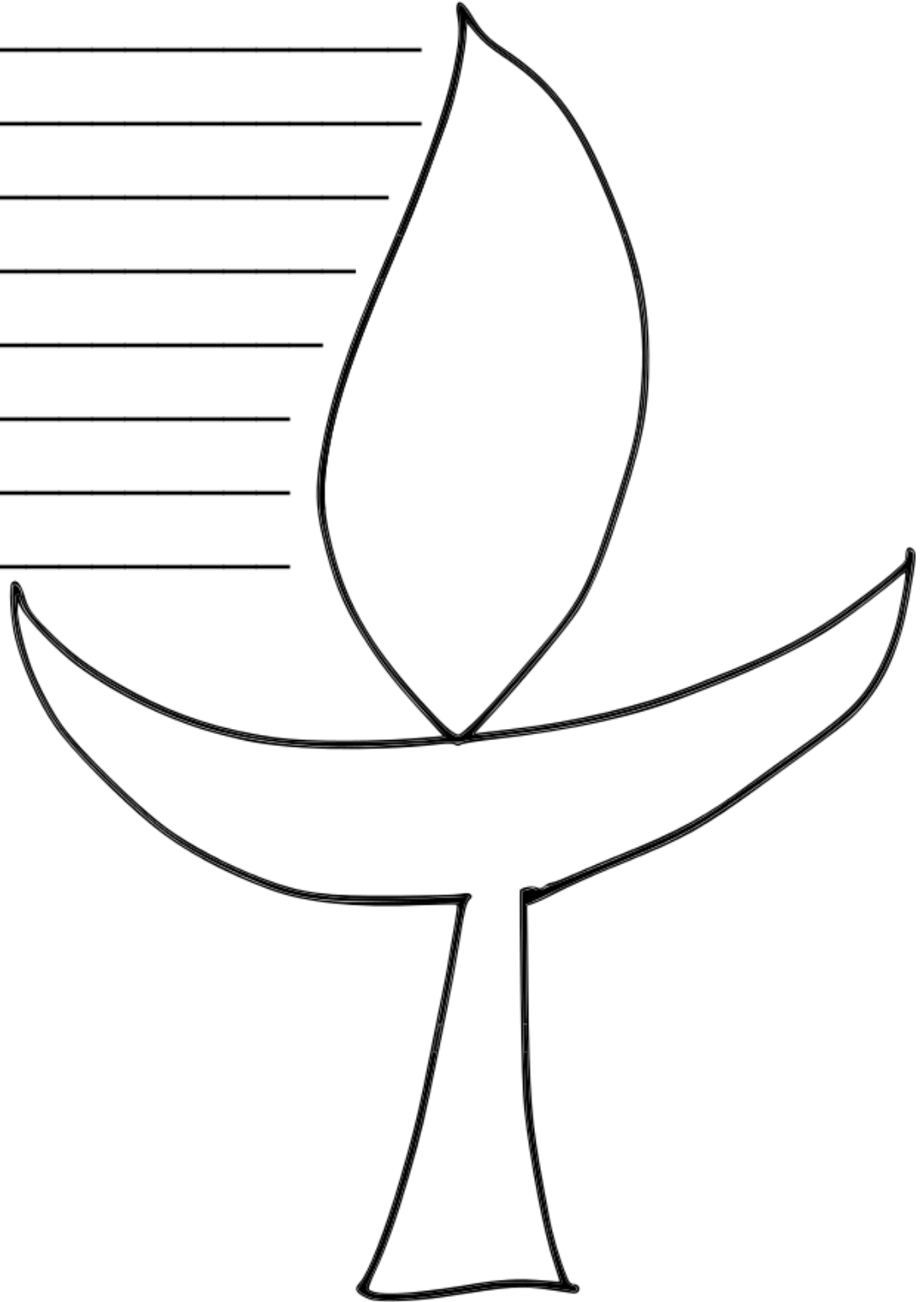
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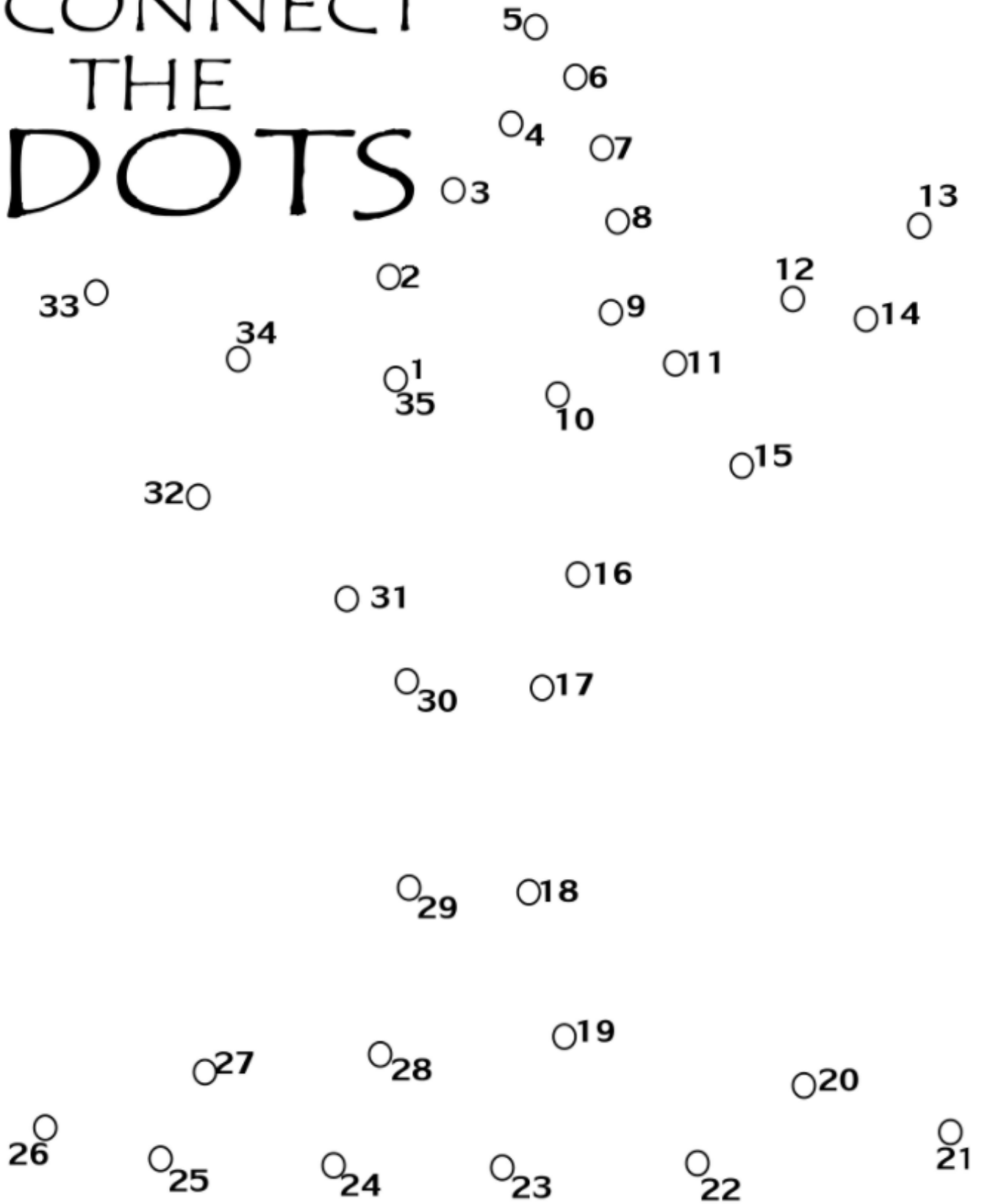
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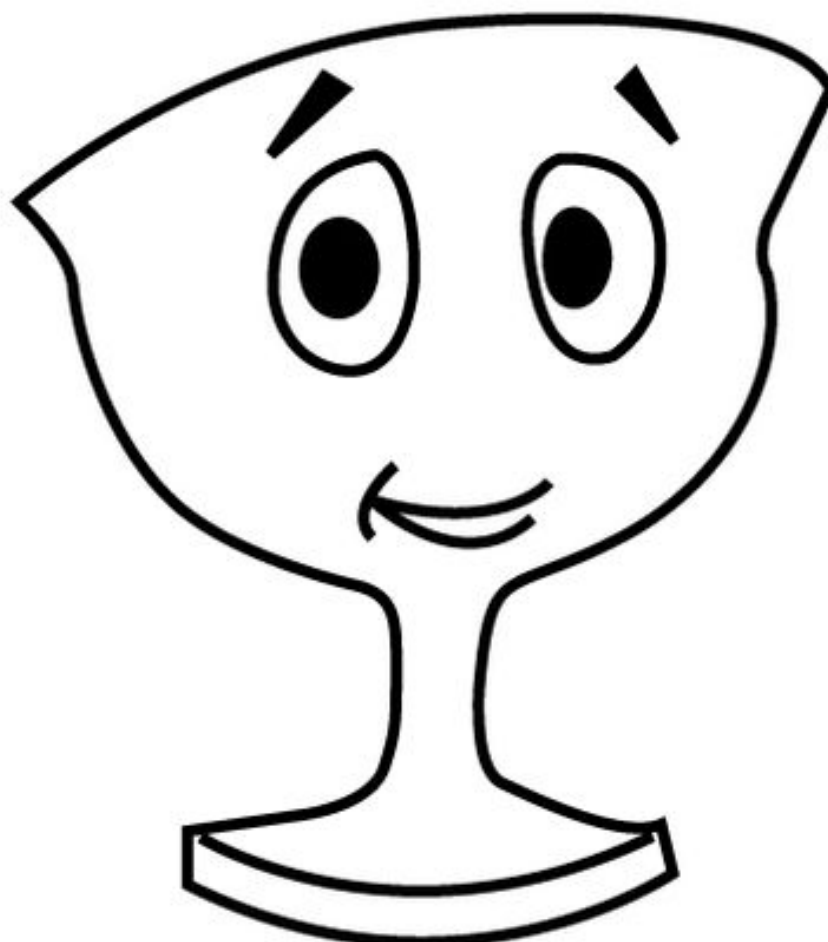


Name \_\_\_\_\_

# CONNECT THE DOTS



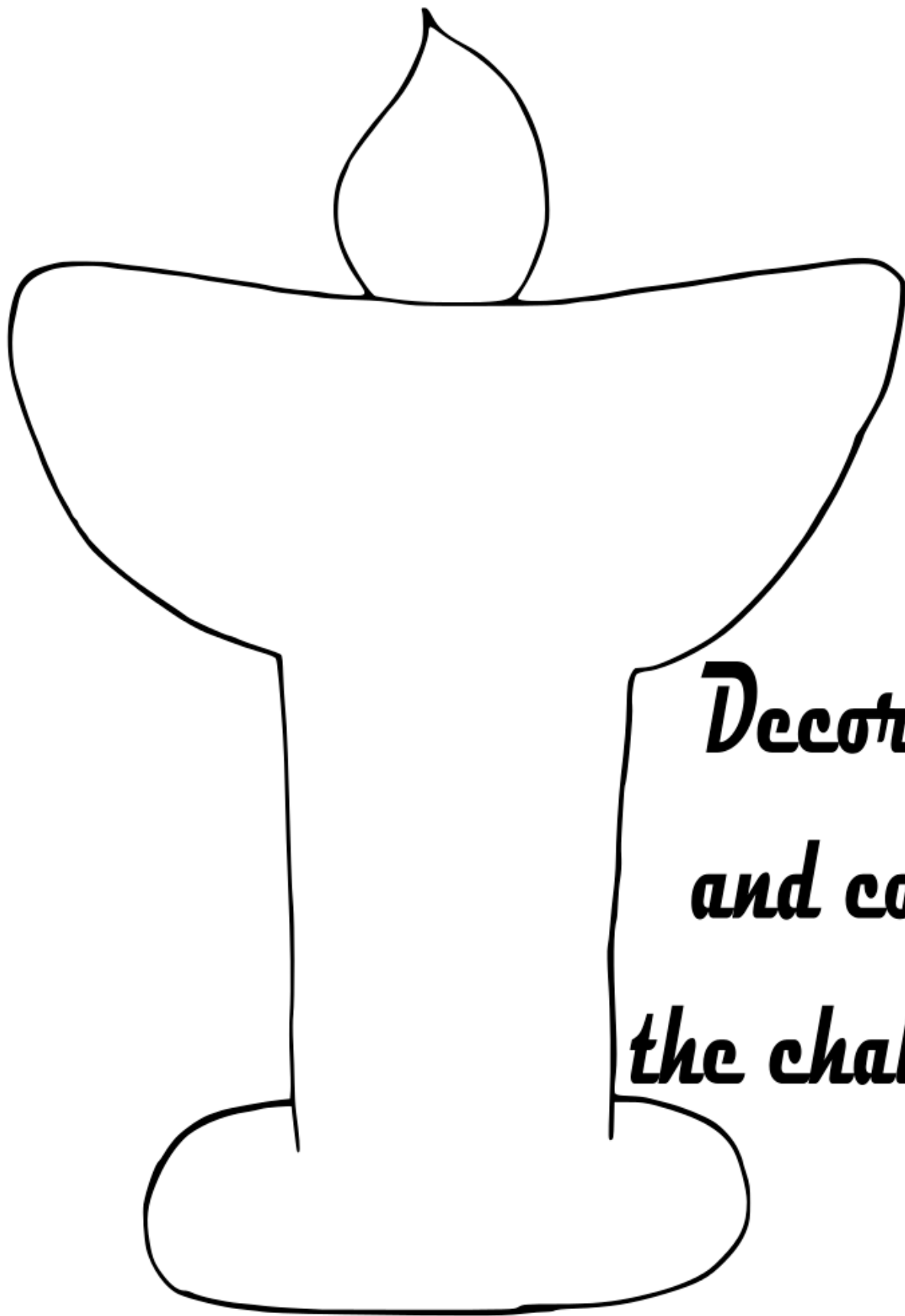
**KIDS: Color "Alice the Chalice"  
and draw her a flame!**



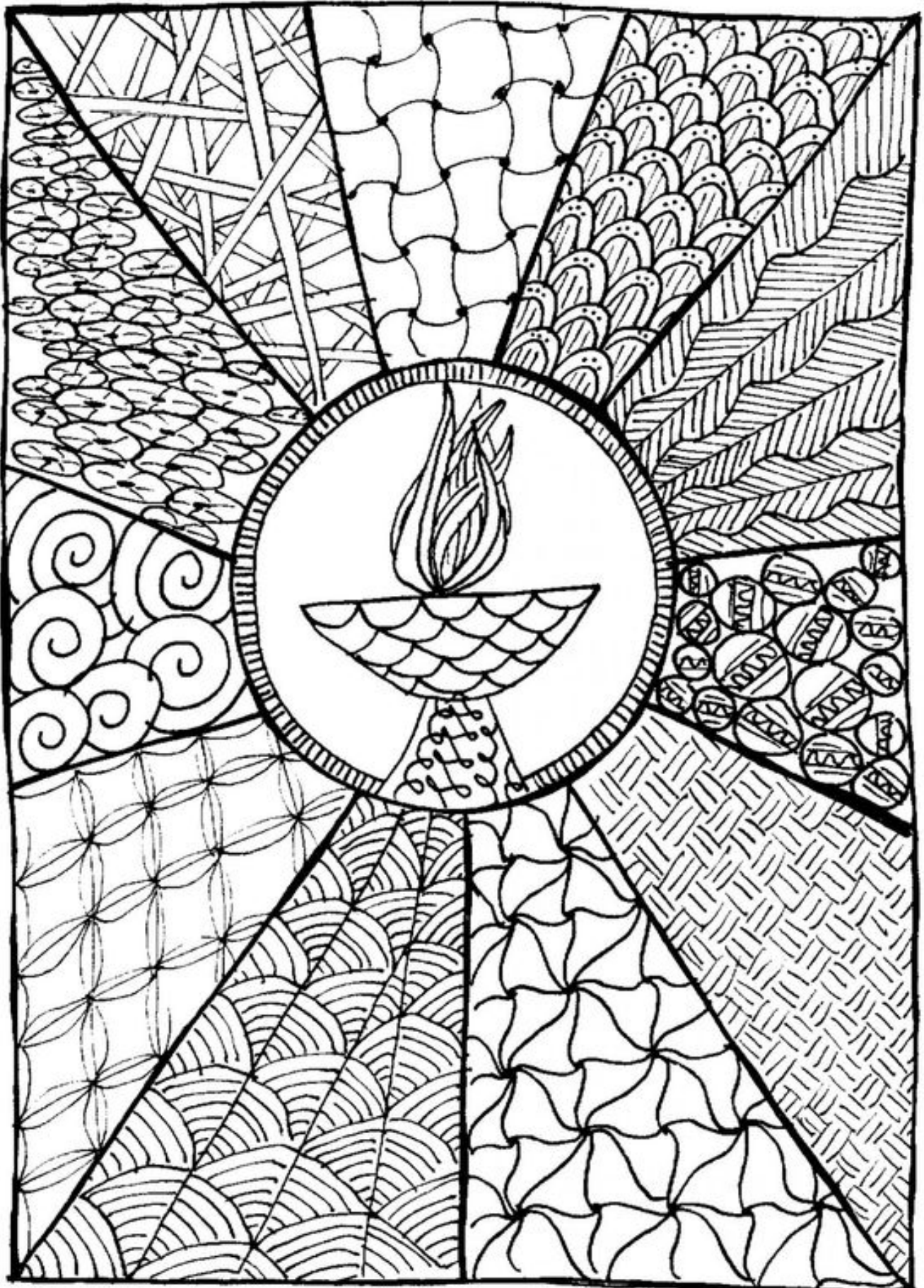
"Alice the Chalice" Copyright 2004 Peter Bowden



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*Decorate  
and color  
the chalice*



ell 2015





## APPENDIX III. 2020-2021 SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

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### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAYS @ 10:30 A.M.

#### PreK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade—Story & Song

<https://zoom.us/j/92777181330>

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and up—Special Guest

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86558123983>

### 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAYS @ 10:30 A.M.

#### PreK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade—Story & Song

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87288152140>

with Suzanne LeBeau & Susie Wilcox

#### 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade—Tools of Faith & Minecraft

<https://zoom.us/j/94518102020>

with Marguerite Mills & Christopher Cotton

#### 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade—ChUUrchCraft & Minecraft

<https://zoom.us/j/98572464291>

with Chas Sisk & Jason Plummer

### 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAYS @ 10:30 A.M.

#### All Ages—Family Games

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89770398199>

with Christopher Cotton, Colin Guerrette, & Jason Plummer

### 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAYS @ 10:30 A.M.

#### PreK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade—Story & Song

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85217697987>

with Suzanne LeBeau & Susie Wilcox

#### 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade—Tools of Faith & Minecraft

<https://zoom.us/j/94398891671>

with Marguerite Mills & Christopher Cotton

#### 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade—ChUUrchCraft & Minecraft

<https://zoom.us/j/92332008761>

with Chas Sisk & Jason Plummer

### 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAYS @ 10:30 A.M.

#### All Ages—Story & Song

Nov 29, 2020:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81465722239>

Jan 31, 2021:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86352116223>

with Marguerite Mills & Harmon Nine

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### SUNDAYS @ 11:30 A.M.

#### Youth Group (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

<https://zoom.us/j/94148119890?pwd=L1FYQXh0emp2TzJNUTZsWWxxZkt2Zz09>

with Shannon Hayes, Elizabeth Leiserson, Holly Mueller

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