



CD INCLUDED

DEAN R. HEETDERKS

24 CREATIVE IDEAS FOR WORSHIP VISUALS

COME  
AND

SEE

# FABRIC

A vertical collage of numerous fabric strips, each with a different color and pattern. The colors range from bright yellows and oranges to deep blues and greens. Patterns include floral motifs, abstract designs, and solid colors. The strips are layered and slightly overlapping, creating a rich, textured visual effect.

# COMMON THREADS



his banner was created to celebrate World Communion Sunday, but it could be used in many other settings because of its simple symbolism.

Its beauty comes from the artful combination of many diverse elements.

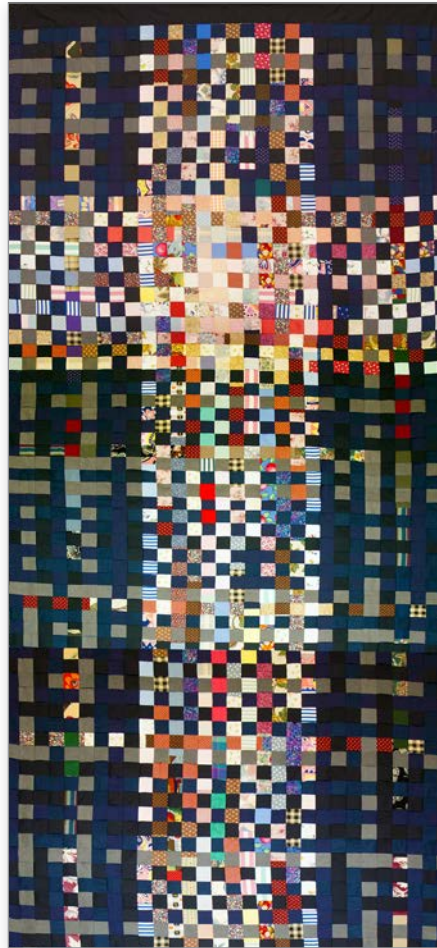
The idea behind this banner is that people from every walk of life make up the kingdom of God on earth and that the Spirit is working through each to further that kingdom. The variety of people is represented by the horizontal and vertical strips of multicolored, multipatterned cloth.

## Letting Go

This project is an exercise in giving up control. If you've ever proposed a great idea to a committee, you know that by the time all of the "You know, you could . . ." comments have died down, you may be left with an idea not at all like the one you started with. Well, here's a banner that simply can't be over-designed, even by committee. You can honestly tell the committee that even you don't know what the final product will look like!

## Gathering Materials

For the raw materials, we asked a number of people in the congregation to sew narrow fabric tubes from any kind of fabric they had on hand. We specified the width (2.5 in/6.5 cm) and length (50 in/125 cm and 120 in/3 m) of the finished tubes and encouraged people not to use any one fabric for more than 6-12 in/15-30 cm of the tube. But



we were careful not to specify the colors or patterns or finishes of the fabrics, except for the navy, gray, and black strips that define the cross.

## Every Piece a Story

As the fabric tubes came in, everyone had a story to tell about the fabric they had used. Although the stories were interesting, I'll admit that in the back of my mind I was wondering how we were going to make something cohesive out of such variety. But it worked!

## Weaving Woes Solved

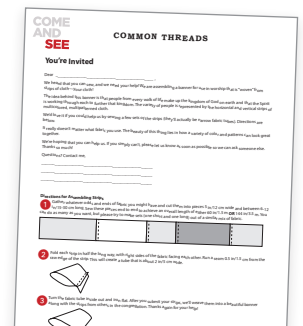
Weaving the tubes together turned out to be the toughest part. You'd think that this amount of fabric would hold together by itself. Not so. In fact, at one particularly trying point in the process we lifted the banner up, only to have all the strips fall in a pile at our feet. So for stability and longevity, we added a small square of fusible interfacing wherever one strip overlapped another. Problem solved.

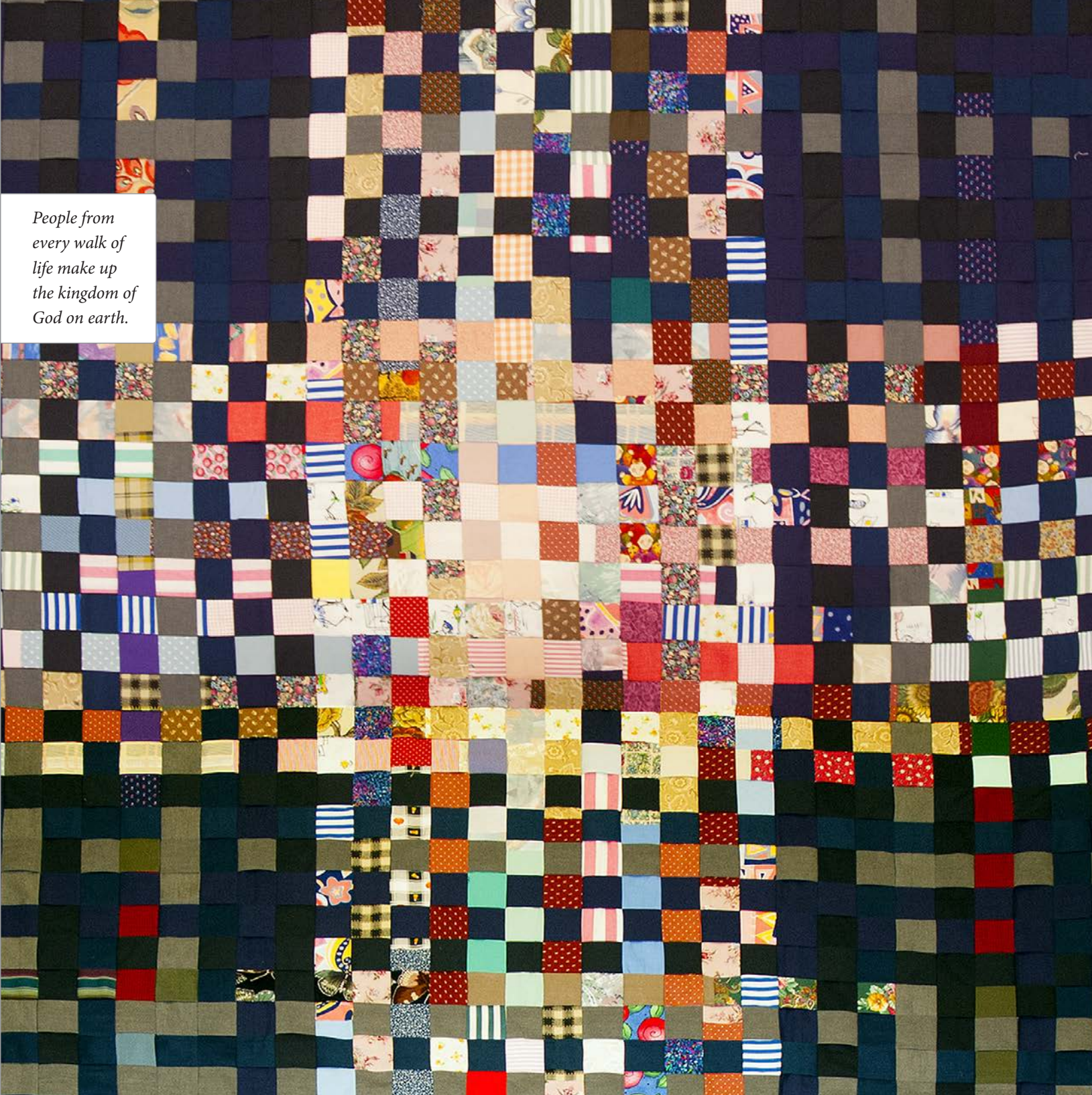
## ADAPTABLE FOR

- World Communion Sunday
- Good Friday
- intergenerational groups

## On the CD

The CD includes a sample letter you can use to invite people to participate in gathering fabric and sewing strips together, along with instructions for doing so.



A large, colorful quilt made of many small, patterned fabric squares. The quilt is composed of numerous small squares, each with a different pattern, color, and texture. The patterns include floral, geometric, and abstract designs. The colors range from dark blues and greys to bright reds, yellows, and greens. The overall effect is a dense, multi-colored mosaic.

*People from  
every walk of  
life make up  
the kingdom of  
God on earth.*



It is rare to come across a resource by an author with so many talents needed in the church today related to visual expression: the talent of a graphic designer, the weekly experience of working on liturgical art in a church setting, and the sensitivity to good theology and worship practices. You will find all of these in this practical resource of 24 projects for your intergenerational worship.

—Elizabeth Steele Halstead, *Calvin Institute of Christian Worship*

This unique resource offers practical, do-able ideas for creating visuals to use in worship. You'll find plans for constructing banners, paraments, installations, and other visuals using a variety of media such as

- fabric
- paper
- drawing and painting
- projection

*Come and See* offers season-specific projects, visuals to celebrate special events, intergenerational projects, and more. It's an excellent resource for visual arts or worship committees or for anyone who seeks to glorify God through creativity.

Bonus resources:

- a resource CD with downloadable patterns and instruction sheets
- a calendar of the liturgical year and its corresponding colors
- downloadable liturgical symbols to spark your creativity

Dean R. Heetderks is director of Proservices, the design group that serves the Christian Reformed Church; and art director of the magazine *Reformed Worship*. He and his wife, Vicki, also a graphic designer, live with their three children in Caledonia, Michigan. He dreams of one day becoming a "real artist."



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