

**ALL THINGS ARE
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL**

by Arthur Zapel



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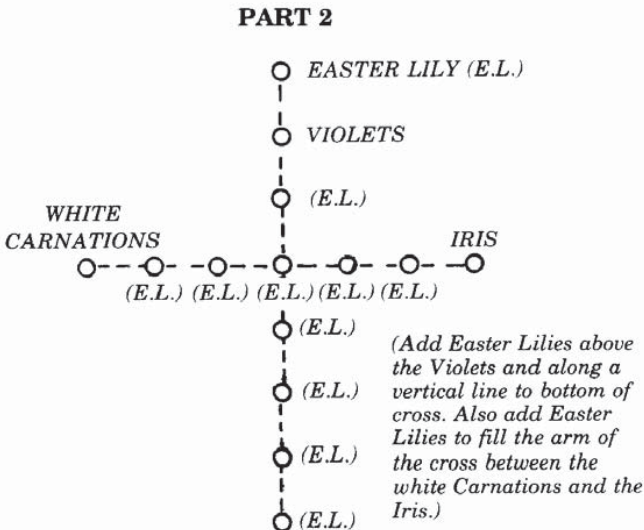
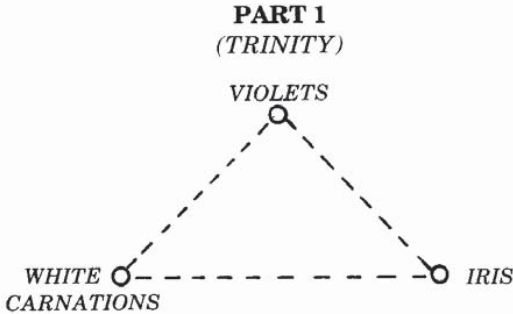
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PRODUCTION NOTES

This program may be structured as the theme of an entire worship service for Easter, or it may simply serve as a sermon-time presentation. A suggested order of worship with a responsive reading is included. We have not endeavored to write a call to worship, the invocation, or the pastoral prayer and benediction, for these would best be done in the style and words of the pastor. Similarly, we only suggest hymns that may be used during the service because of their words relating to the sub-themes of this program. The church music director may have better choices. All of the hymns indicated can be found in most church hymnals.

The placement of the flowers to climax this presentation would be as diagramed here:



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The cross may be as long as the Easter lilies and space available. If possible, it will be effective if the flowers can be placed on boxes or risers of some sort, the lowest end toward the front pews and the highest toward the altar. This will provide maximum visibility.

The Scripture selections included are from the *Good News for Modern Man New Testament Bible*. It is our feeling that these words are more easily read by children. Scripture readings from any Bible translation can be substituted.

The cast of performers may vary from 8 to 14 years of age. Reading ability is the only talent requisite. The cast includes the Pastor and 12 children of mixed ages and sex.

SUGGESTED ORDER OF SERVICE

1. PRELUDE

2. CALL TO WORSHIP (Pastor)

3. INVOCATION (Pastor)

4. LORD'S PRAYER (Everyone)

5. HYMN (Entire congregation "Golden Breaks the Dawn")

6. RESPONSIVE READING:

PASTOR: Praise the Lord Jesus.

CONGREGATION: He is risen; he lives with us today and forever.

PASTOR: Praise him for his suffering that we are redeemed.

CONGREGATION: Praise him for his victory over sin and death's dark night.

PASTOR: Praise him with the flowers of Easter.

CONGREGATION: Praise him with beauty, color and song.

PASTOR: Praise him with lilies, violets and iris.

CONGREGATION: Praise him with clover, columbine and daisies.

PASTOR: Let everything that grows praise the risen Lord.

CONGREGATION: Praise Jesus, our savior.

PASTOR: He is risen,

CONGREGATION: Praise the Lord!

7. SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 28: 5-8

8. ANTHEM: "Christ the Lord Has Risen Today"

9. CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION: "All Things Are Bright and Beautiful"

10. OFFERING (With Children's hymn "Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day")

11. PASTORAL PRAYER

12. HYMN (Entire congregation "Good Christian Men Rejoice and Sing")

13. BENEDICTION (Pastor)

14. POSTLUDE

PASTOR: On this Easter Sunday we celebrate new life — your new life because Jesus Christ our savior died for us and was resurrected. Jesus lived, died, then lived again. Because he lives, you live redeemed by his love.

Easter morning! All things are bright and beautiful. Jesus Christ lives and rebirth is all about us — in our new life, in our children, in springtime, in all of the wonders of God's creation. In the early hour of dawn, Jesus rose from the dead to free us of our burdens of sin and gave us life eternal. In spirit you were there that morning of wonder. You remember the freshness and beauty lifted out of the dark night. You see the first rays of sunlight piercing through the heavy-laden mists of dawn. You see the gold and silver dewdrops clinging to the grasses. From the petals of flowers, they hang as trembling ornaments. You hear the breath of resurrection and new life in the soft breeze of morning. The sweetest of perfumes encircles your presence and you know you are part of God's love and redemption. All things are bright and beautiful. Joy has dawned again on Easter day.

PROCESSIONAL: Groups of children enter down center aisle carrying flowers: Easter lilies, violets, carnations, iris and laurel. They are singing: "All Things Bright and Beautiful." They take positions at the front of the chancel and turn to place their flowers at their side then turn to face the congregation.

PASTOR: To celebrate this Easter Sunday several groups of youngsters from our church school would like to present for you a tableau of children and flowers entitled: All Things Are Bright and Beautiful.

CHILD 1: Flowers and children symbolize our victory over sin and death. In every flower, as in every child, there are seeds of new beginnings. Though beauty and love may

1 wilt away there is always, in God's world, a new beginning.
 2 **CHILD 2:** Jesus taught in parables — short little stories full
 3 of meaning for those who would listen carefully.

4 **CHILD 3:** (*Reading from Bible*) Mark 4:3-9: There was a man
 5 who went out to sow. As he scattered the seed in the field
 6 some of it fell along the path and the birds came and ate
 7 it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was
 8 little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil
 9 wasn't deep. Then when the sun came up it burned the
 10 young plants, and because the roots had not grown deep
 11 enough the plants soon dried up. Some of the seed fell
 12 among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, and
 13 they didn't bear grain. But some seeds fell in good soil,
 14 and the plants sprouted, grew, and bore grain: some had
 15 thirty grains, others sixty, and others one hundred.

16 **CHILD 2:** But those who listened did not always hear what
 17 Jesus was trying to tell them so he explained his parable.

18 **CHILD 3:** (*Reading from the Bible*) Mark 4:14-20: The sower sows
 19 God's message. Sometimes the message falls along the
 20 path; these people hear it, but as soon as they hear it
 21 Satan comes and takes away the message sown in them.
 22 Other people are like the seeds that fall on rocky ground.
 23 As soon as they hear the message, they give it up at once.
 24 Other people are like the seeds sown among the thorns.
 25 These are the ones who hear the message, but the worries
 26 about this life, the love for riches, and all other kinds of
 27 desires crowd in and choke the message and they don't
 28 bear fruit. But other people are like the seeds sown in
 29 good soil. They hear the message, accept it, and bear
 30 fruit: some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred.

31 **CHILD 2:** Flowers are the fruit of the seeds — beautiful
 32 symbols of Jesus' lessons.

33 **CHILD 4:** (*Holding up a violet plant or vase of cut flowers for all to*
 34 *see*) The violet is a flower of Easter symbolizing
 35 humility — how Christ humbled himself by dying on the

cross. He could have been King of the Jews but he chose, instead, to be “the Son of Man.” He could have worn a crown of gold, but he chose to wear a crown of thorns. He taught us that one must be humble to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

CHILD 5: *(Matthew 18:2-5:)* Jesus called a child, had him stand in front of them, and said, “Remember this! Unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven is the one who humbles himself and becomes like this child. And whoever welcomes in my name one such child as this, welcomes me.”

CHILD 6: *(Peter 5:5-7:)* And all of you must put on the apron of humility, to serve one another for the scripture says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, then, under God’s mighty hand, so that he will lift you up in his own good time. Throw all your worries on him, because he cares for you.

CHILD 1: The color violet is made from red and blue. Red represents sacrifice and love. Blue stands for faith and truth. Together they represent the humility of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

HYMN: The children’s choir steps forward and sings first two verses of “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

CHILD 2: *(Holding up a carnation plant or vase of cut flowers for all to see)* The carnation is another flower of Easter. It signifies pure love. The kind of love Jesus demonstrated so many times during his ministry.

CHILD 7: With God’s power of love expressed through his son Jesus there were many miracles. Jesus healed a man born blind, he healed a boy troubled by an evil spirit, he healed a paralyzed man, a man who was deaf and dumb, a man with a crippled hand. He made the lepers clean. So great was his love that he raised people from the dead.

CHILD 8: Jesus told us that we, too, could do great things

1 with love. He said [Matthew 5:42] "You have heard that it
 2 was said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' But now
 3 I tell you: love your enemies, and pray for those who
 4 persecute you, so that you will become the sons of your
 5 Father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on bad
 6 and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do
 7 good and those who do evil. Why should God reward you
 8 if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax
 9 collectors do that!"

10 **CHILD 9:** Jesus' lessons of love were told by John in the Bible
 11 [1 John 4:16:18] "God is love, and whoever lives in love
 12 lives in God and God lives in him . . . There is no fear in
 13 love, perfect love drives out all fear."

14 **CHILD 2:** This carnation is the symbol of God's pure love.

15 **HYMN:** Children's choir or entire congregation sings "All Creatures
 16 of Our God and King."

17 **CHILD 1:** *(Stepping to the front holding a vase with iris blossoms)*
 18 The iris is the flower that symbolizes Christ's passion —
 19 how he quietly suffered then died on a cross for us.

20 **CHILD 10:** John 19:1-3: Then Pilate took Jesus and had him
 21 whipped. The soldiers made a crown of thorny branches
 22 and put it on his head; they put a purple robe on him,
 23 and came to him and said "Long live the King of the
 24 Jews!" And they went up and slapped him.

25 **CHILD 11:** John 19:17: He went out carrying his cross and
 26 came to "the Place of the Skull" as it is called. There they
 27 nailed him to the cross . . .

28 **CHILD 12:** Matthew 27:45,50,54: At noon the whole country
 29 was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours.
 30 At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout,
 31 "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my
 32 God, why did you abandon me?" Jesus again gave a loud
 33 cry, and breathed his last. When the army officer and the
 34 soldiers with him who were watching Jesus saw the
 35 earthquake and everything else that happened, they were

terrified and said, "He really was the Son of God!"

CHILD 1: These iris blossoms are the symbol of our Lord's passion in his final hours before his earthly death.

HYMN: Children's choir sings "Let Us With a Gladsome Mind."

PASTOR: *(As he or she speaks, three children, each carrying a flower, step forward to a center position as their flower is named.)*

Church history and tradition have chosen many flowers to signify saints, sacraments, events of early Christianity.

Today we have shown you three. The violet which symbolizes the humility of Jesus; *(Child with violets steps forward)*

white carnations which symbolize the pure love of Jesus; *(Second child with carnations steps forward)* **and iris**

which symbolizes the passion of Christ Jesus. *(Third child with iris blossoms steps forward.)*

Let us now place these flowers in a triangle representing the trinity of our faith — Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. *(The three children place their flowers in a triangle. See diagram.)* **Let us next place a white lily above the triangle of the trinity to represent the resurrection.** *(One child places an Easter lily above the triangle — see diagram.)* **This flower is the symbol of Easter. And between them all, let us place several Easter lilies to represent the cross of Christianity.** *(Several children place Easter lilies in position to make a cross-see diagram.)* **We live because he lives. He is risen and so are we!**

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NOTE: *The numerals running vertically down the left margin of each page of dialogue are for the convenience of the director. With these, he/she may easily direct attention to a specific passage.*



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