

THE COLORS OF EASTER

by Rhonda Wray



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The Colors of Easter

An Easter children's program

by Rhonda Wray

CAST OF CHARACTERS
(In order of appearance)

Artist Child

Easter Child

Child 1 (Green)

Child 2 (Black)

Child 3 (Brown)

Child 4 (Purple)

Child 5 (Red)

Child 6 (Gray)

Child 7 (Orange)

Child 8 (Pink)

Child 9 (White)

Child 10 (Blue)

Child 11 (Yellow)

**An unlimited number of children
may participate as choir members.**

PRODUCTION NOTES

Exuberant children waving streamers and dressed head to toe in various bright hues lend this program Easter joy! Each child shares how his or her shade symbolizes an aspect of Easter. Collectively, the colors paint a complete picture of the key events — green for palms and growth, black for death and sorrow, brown for the cross, purple for the King of the Jews, red for Jesus' blood, gray for the empty tomb, orange for fire and the Holy Spirit, pink for the sunrise on the third day, white for Jesus' linens and burial cloth, blue for heaven, and yellow for the Light of the World. Any number of children may sing verses of "The Easter Colors Song" interspersed with the color explanations. As a Lenten activity, children may make small bags or plastic eggs of jelly beans with a copy of "A Jelly Bean Psalm" inside to distribute to the congregation.

Costumes: The children will need to wear as much of their individual color as possible. The Artist Child should wear a painting smock, and a beret just for fun, if desired. Easter Child should simply wear an Easter outfit he or she already has.

Stage: You will need an easel, a central microphone, and a chair for Easter Child.

Props: Large sketch pad with one blue or black sheet glued inside for the white picture if desired, tempera paints (tempera is good because the colors are vivid and it dries quickly) or oil pastels or markers — any medium that is easy to use and shows up in bold and bright colors, brushes if needed, palette with circles of the eleven colors mentioned (use a real one or make one out of cardboard), basket with Easter eggs, and streamers and/or ribbons in all the colors mentioned.

Pictures: The pictures are an attention-grabbing visual reinforcement for the narration. The part of Artist Child is a great way to showcase the talent of a budding artist in your congregation. He or she only has a few short lines, so if a child is somewhat shy, this is a good way to involve him or her. The symbols are very easy to paint or draw. The Artist Child should work quickly, aiming for simplicity, and create large

versions of all the symbols so they will be visible from the congregation. If the child feels more comfortable, light pencil outlines of the symbols may be sketched on in advance as a guideline. If time permits, the child should fill in the shapes, but if not, an outline is acceptable. A stagehand should be ready to tear or cut each page off as quickly and quietly as possible, placing the pictures in front of the children so that by the end, their pictures will be ready to display for the conclusion of the program.

Music: “The Easter Colors Song” (To be sung to the tune of the well-known hymn “This Is My Father’s World” by Maltbie Davenport Babcock and Franklin L. Sheppard, found online or in most church hymnals.)

Verse 1:

Green are the palms that wave,
 “Hosanna, he will save!”
 Through winter’s chill, plants bloom again still,
 Just like the resurrected life he gave.

Verse 2:

Black is our grief and sin,
 Darkness, death, and chagrin.
 ’Tween the upper room and the empty tomb,
 Christ fought a mighty battle to win.

Verse 3:

Brown is his cross of wood
 Where it was understood
 He gave his life as a sacrifice
 As only the Messiah could.

Verse 4:

Purple is fit for a king.
 For the Lord, our praises ring.
 His majesty, there for all to see.
 Homage to him we bring.

Verse 5:

Red is the blood he gave
 So that each life, he would save.
 He was crucified, and then he died,
 But he triumphed over the grave.

Verse 6:

Gray is the tomb where he lay.
 Then the stone was rolled away!
 "He is not here, but don't you fear.
 You'll see him again today!"

Verse 7:

Orange is the fire's flame.
 Pete's denial brought him shame.
 But along came the Spirit — never fear it!
 The Comforter we all can claim.

Verse 8:

Pink is the sunrise
 That answered all their "whys."
 At the third day's dawn, from the tomb, he was gone.
 They could not believe their eyes!

Verse 9:

White stands for purity.
 From sin, we are set free.
 And don't you know, we'll be white as snow,
 New life for you and me.

Verse 10:

Blue is for heaven fair,
 The Lord resides up there.
 Behind the blue, we'll have life anew
 And happiness beyond compare.

Verse 11:

Yellow points us to the light,
 The morning star so bright.
 From the darkness, he has set us free.
 He is our Easter joy and delight!

Verse 12:

Easter colors, true and bright,
 Purple, green, and white,
 Brown, black, red, blue, orange, pink, gray, yellow too,
 Remind us of Christ, the world's light.

Take-home Gift: Place eight jellybeans — one each of green, black, red, pink, purple, white, orange, and yellow — inside a small zippered-top bag or plastic egg with a copy of “A Jelly Bean Psalm” inside. If you have access to a color printer, you may use a different color of ink for each color's lines.

A Jelly Bean Psalm

Jelly beans, just for you!
 Their story of Easter is loving and true.

Green is for the palms that lay
 Along the road. Hosanna! Hooray!

Black is for sin that leads to deep sorrow,
 When it feels like there's no hope for tomorrow.

Red is for blood that Jesus shed
 When all was lost and they thought he was dead.

Pink is for the third day's sunrise
 And the empty tomb — a great surprise!

Purple is for royalty — Jesus is king!
 Praise the Lord, our praises ring.

White were the clouds when they watched him ascend,
 Prince of Peace, Redeemer, and Friend.

Orange is the Holy Spirit's fire,
 Comforter, Helper, there to inspire.

Yellow is Jesus, the world's great light,
 Who makes our wrongs forgiven and right.

May the colors of these jelly beans
 Point you to Easter and just what it means.

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All Scripture marked (KJV) is taken from The King James Version.

1 (*ARTIST CHILD sits or stands at the easel as the scene opens.*
 2 *He/she may paint anything that is easy to paint and contains*
 3 *a variety of colors, such as flowers or a rainbow. Part of the*
 4 *painting should be started ahead of time. Allow a pause for*
 5 *some painting before EASTER CHILD enters holding Easter*
 6 *basket with eggs.*)

7 **EASTER CHILD:** (*Calls out to ARTIST CHILD*) **Happy Easter,**
 8 _____ (*Insert real name of ARTIST CHILD.*)

9 **ARTIST CHILD:** **Hey, _____,** (*Insert real name of EASTER*
 10 *CHILD*) **happy Easter to you too!**

11 **EASTER CHILD:** (*Looking at painting*) **Wow, _____,** (*Insert*
 12 *real name of ARTIST CHILD*) **I like your painting. It's very**
 13 **colorful!**

14 **ARTIST CHILD:** **Thank you! So _____,** (*Insert real name of*
 15 *EASTER CHILD*) **what colors come to mind when you**
 16 **think of Easter? Black? Orange? Brown?**

17 **EASTER CHILD:** **No way!** (*Picks up one egg from Easter basket.*)
 18 **I think of the pastels — you know, the light colors of**
 19 **Easter eggs. How about you?**

20 **ARTIST CHILD:** (*Holds up palette containing eleven colors.*) **I**
 21 **think of *these* colors.**

22 **EASTER CHILD:** (*Doubtfully*) **Really? Is that your “artist’s**
 23 **interpretation”?**

24 **ARTIST CHILD:** **No, nothing as far-fetched as that. These**
 25 **rich colors paint a true picture of Easter. Stick around**
 26 **— you’ll see!**

27 **EASTER CHILD:** **I’m in!** (*Sits in the chair that is onstage.*)

28 **CHILD 1 (GREEN):** (*Enters waving a green ribbon or streamer and*
 29 *stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints a simple leaf*
 30 *using green paint throughout the following lines.*) **Green**
 31 **reminds us of palms, the Garden of Gethsemane, and**
 32 **growth. The Bible tells of Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into**
 33 **Jerusalem, to the delight of the people. “They took palm**
 34 **branches and went out to meet him, shouting,**
 35 **‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the**
 36 **Lord!’”** (*John 12:13*). **Before he was crucified, Jesus went**
 37 **to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. I like to think**
 38 **that the beauty of the green trees and plants were a**

comfort to him as he poured out his heart to his Father. When plants and trees green up again after a cold, lifeless winter, it's a reminder of how Jesus rose from the dead. He even referred to himself as "the vine" and to us as "the branches," and promised, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit" (*John 15:5*).

SONG:

Verse 1, "The Easter Colors Song"

CHOIR: (*Singing*) Green are the palms that wave,
 "Hosanna, he will save!"
 Through winter's chill, plants bloom again still,
 Just like the resurrected life he gave.

(*CHILD 1 steps to one side of the stage, beginning to form a line.*)

CHILD 2 (BLACK): (*Enters waving a black ribbon or streamer, but not too exuberantly, and stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints a simple sad face using black paint throughout the following lines.*) Black is the darkest of colors. Think of what a dull place the world would be without the beauty of the many hues around us! It makes sense then that black stands for death, darkness, sorrow, and sin. Jesus told the officials who arrested him, "This is your hour — when darkness reigns" (*Luke 22:53*). You might say black is the color of Good Friday. Scripture tells us that after Jesus was crucified, "darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining" (*Luke 23:44-45*). It's reassuring to know that we are not doomed to darkness, for we are told that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (*John 1:5*). "So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light" (*Romans 13:12*).

12
SONG:

Verse 2, "The Easter Colors Song"

CHOIR: (*Singing*) Black is our grief and sin,
Darkness, death, and chagrin.
'Tween the upper room and the empty tomb,
Christ fought a mighty battle to win.

(CHILD 2 stands beside CHILD 1.)

CHILD 3 (BROWN): (*Enters waving a brown ribbon or streamer and stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints a simple cross using brown paint throughout the following lines.*)
Brown takes us back to the despair of Good Friday. A rough wooden cross figures prominently into the Easter story. Simon of Cyrene was forced to carry Jesus' cross to the crucifixion site. There were three crosses in all, for Jesus was crucified between two criminals. We are so privileged that "he himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24), and that "he canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:14, NLT). Jesus challenges us, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

SONG:

Verse 3, "The Easter Colors Song"

CHOIR: (*Singing*) Brown is his cross of wood
Where it was understood
He gave his life as a sacrifice
As only the Messiah could.

(CHILD 3 stands beside CHILD 2.)

CHILD 4 (PURPLE): (*Enters waving a purple ribbon or streamer and stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints a simple crown using purple paint throughout the following lines.*)

Purple is a sign of royalty, for purple cloth was so rare and costly in Bible times that only royals or the very wealthy could afford it. “The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on (Jesus’) head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’” (*John 19:2-3*). “Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews” (*John 19:19*). Though Jesus’ kingly title was met with opposition then, it was proven true, for he is “King of kings and Lord of lords” (*1 Timothy 6:15*).

SONG:

Verse 4, “The Easter Colors Song”

CHOIR: (*Singing*) Purple is fit for a king.
 For the Lord, our praises ring.
 His majesty, there for all to see.
 Homage to him we bring.

(*CHILD 4 stands beside CHILD 3.*)

CHILD 5 (RED): (*Enters waving a red ribbon or streamer and stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints a simple heart using red paint throughout the following lines.*) Red represents Jesus’ blood that was shed as he gave his life for all of us. Prior to his crucifixion, he spent time in the Garden of Gethsemane. “And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground” (*Luke 22:44*). This is a rare stress-related condition called hemato-hi-dro-sis (*he-mat-o-hi-drow-sis*) where ruptured blood vessels leak into the sweat glands. At the crucifixion, “One of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water” (*John 19:34*). Jesus’ blood was highly controversial. “Pilate said, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood. It is your responsibility!’ All the people answered, ‘His blood is on us and on our children!’” (*Matthew 27:24-5*). Yes, “he was wounded for our

transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities”
(Isaiah 53:5, KJV). As hard as it is to think about, these
 painful events had to happen, for “by his wounds you
 have been healed” *(1 Peter 2:24)*.

SONG:

Verse 5, “The Easter Colors Song”

CHOIR: *(Singing)* Red is the blood he gave
 So that each life, he would save.
 He was crucified, and then he died,
 But he triumphed over the grave.

(CHILD 5 stands beside CHILD 4.)

CHILD 6 (GRAY): *(Enters waving a gray ribbon or streamer and stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints a simple rock using gray paint throughout the following lines.)* Gray symbolizes the tomb hewn out of rock where Jesus’ body was placed following his death on the cross. “At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid” *(John 19:41)*. “As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away” *(Matthew 27:59-60)*. Gray also makes us think of the thirty pieces of silver that Judas betrayed Jesus for, or the metal nails used to hang Jesus from the cross.

15
SONG:

Verse 6, “The Easter Colors Song”

CHOIR: (*Singing*) Gray is the tomb where he lay.
Then the stone was rolled away!
“He is not here, but don’t you fear.
You’ll see him again today!”

(CHILD 6 stands beside CHILD 5.)

CHILD 7 (ORANGE): (*Enters waving an orange ribbon or streamer and stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints some simple flames using orange paint throughout the following lines.*) The color orange speaks to us of fire and also the Holy Spirit. After the Crucifixion, “some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard. Peter sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, ‘This man was with him.’ But he denied it. ‘Woman, I don’t know him,’ he said” (*Luke 22:55-57, Mark 14:54*). Fire was later used in a powerful way as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Consider this from the day of Pentecost: “They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit ... ” (*Acts 2:3-4*). And finally, a fire-related reminder: “Let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire” (*Hebrews 12:18-19*).

SONG:

Verse 7, “The Easter Colors Song”

CHOIR: (*Singing*) Orange is the fire’s flame.
Pete’s denial brought him shame.
But along came the Spirit — never fear it!
The Comforter we all can claim.

(CHILD 7 stands beside CHILD 6.)

CHILD 8 (PINK): (*Enters waving a pink ribbon or streamer and stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints some simple sunrise clouds using pink paint throughout the following lines.*) Pink is the color of a sunrise. At dawn on the third day, everything changed for a small group of women taking spices to prepare Jesus' body for burial. "Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?'" (*Mark 16:2-3*). It was there, bathed in a pink glow from the sun coming up, that they discovered the empty tomb — their first indication that Jesus rose from the dead. Even today, churches hold sunrise services on Easter morning in recognition of these women and the powerful testimony of their early-morning discovery as the sun peeked over the horizon. "He is not here; he has risen!" (*Luke 24:6*).

SONG:

Verse 8, "The Easter Colors Song"

CHOIR: (*Singing*) Pink is the sunrise
That answered all their "whys."
At the third day's dawn, from the tomb, he was gone.
They could not believe their eyes!

(CHILD 8 stands beside CHILD 7.)

CHILD 9 (WHITE): (*Enters waving a white ribbon or streamer and stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints a simple dove using white paint on blue or black paper so it will show up better — or just outline in black paint on the white paper — throughout the following lines.*) White means purity and righteousness. When Jesus was baptized by John, "just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove" (*Mark 1:10*). White was likely the color of his robe and burial cloth. "Simon Peter ... went into the tomb.

He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen" (*John 20:6-7*). As if that wasn't enough proof that he had resurrected, "(Mary) saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the foot" (*John 20:12*). 'Why do you look for the living among the dead?' they asked. 'He is not here; he has risen!'" (*Luke 24:5-6*). Puffy white clouds remind us of Jesus' second coming. "We who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (*1 Thessalonians 4:17*). Finally, white means forgiveness. God reassures us through his Word that "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (*Isaiah 1:18*).

SONG:

Verse 9, "The Easter Colors Song"

CHOIR: (*Singing*) White stands for purity.

From sin, we are set free.

And don't you know, we'll be white as snow,

New life for you and me.

(*CHILD 9 stands by CHILD 8.*)

CHILD 10 (BLUE): (*Enters waving a blue ribbon or streamer and stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints a simple blue sky leaving white cloud shapes throughout the following lines.*) Blue conveys the sky and heaven. When Jesus' earthly ministry was through, he ascended into heaven. "They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven'" (*Acts 1:10-11*). The Bible reminds us that "our citizenship is in heaven" (*Philippians 3:20*), and what a place it will be!



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