

THE GLORIOUS RAINBOW OF EASTER

by Cheryl Bushweiler



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**THE GLORIOUS
RAINBOW OF EASTER**

By Cheryl Bushweiler

PRODUCTION NOTES

This short drama presentation is suitable for an Easter Sunrise service.

Our objective is to involve as many youth as possible. Some may perform as “colors;” others may participate as Scripture readers or members of the choir.

No memorization is necessary. The parts can be read. With good advance preparation, minimal rehearsal time will be needed.

I hope you will enjoy this Scripture-based drama. It's conclusion focuses on God's promise of eternal life for all.

— *Cheryl Bushweiler*

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CAST

*Minimum of 7 youngsters

1 narrator

Additional readers — divide Scripture readings according to readers available.

*These children will represent the colors (of Easter). If no other youngsters are available, they can also read the Scripture passages. The more children you can involve in the worship service, the greater the experience will be for everyone.

COSTUMES

Drape each child in his or her own individual color, using two to three yards of fabric (no sewing necessary). Use very inexpensive, solid, single-knit fabric and drape from around the waist to over the shoulder, covering the child's street clothes.

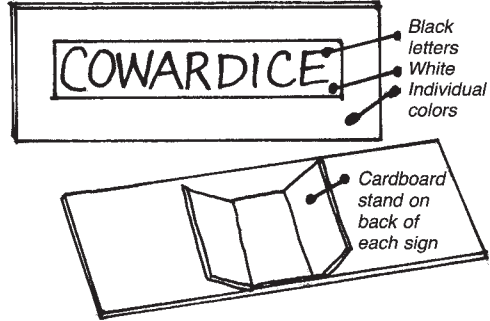


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PROPS

Each child should carry a sign indicating the symbolism of each color.

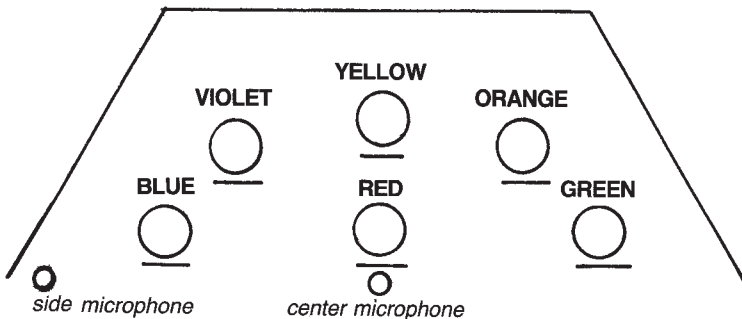
Yellow=Cowardice
 Green=Envy
 Violet=Power
 Orange=Anger
 Blue=Sadness
 Indigo=Darkness
 Red=Bloodshed



STAGING

Use a center microphone and have each "color" speak into it, holding up his or her sign as he or she speaks. When finished, the "color" will step back, placing the sign at his or her feet. After each "color" speaks, each should step back so that all distribute themselves in the available stage space (see diagram) until "Red" finishes his or her reading.

The Scripture readers stand to the side on a separate microphone.



ADDITIONAL AIDS

1. Have the child participants make rainbows from seven strands of rug yarn. These colorful strands can be held together with masking tape. Include a straight pin with each so that members of the congregation may wear them. They can be distributed at the end of the service.
2. Place colored construction paper in the pew racks so that everyone in the congregation may pass them down the row. During the singing of the hymn, the colors are raised to form a living, rejoicing, rainbow.
3. Optional: Sunday school children may make a rainbow by securing fabric scraps to a large bed sheet. This may be displayed at the appropriate time in the presentation.

MUSIC

Hymn: "Now Let the Rainbow Fill the Skies" (*sung to melody of "All Creatures of Our God and King," found in most church hymnals*)

Now let the rainbow fill the skies
 Symbol of eternal paradise
 Christ hath promised
 Alleluia.
 His vict'ry over death shall be
 Symbol for all eternity.
 Alleluia, Alleluia,
 Alleluia, Alleluia,
 Alleluia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All Biblical quotations used in this script are from the *Good News Bible*, published by the American Bible Society. New Testament © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976. Used by permission.

The Glorious Rainbow of Easter

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YELLOW: I am Yellow! It is said that I imply a moment of weakness, and lack of courage. Yellow is the coward's color. And so it is fitting that I should represent Peter for his time of cowardice when he denied knowing Jesus. (*Steps back. Assumes position.*)

READER: (*Mark 14:66-72*) Peter was still down in the courtyard when one of the high priest's servant girls came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked straight at him and said, "You, too, were with Jesus of Nazareth." But he denied it. "I don't know. . . I don't understand what you are talking about," he answered, and went out into the passageway. Just then a rooster crowed. The servant girl saw him there and began to repeat to the bystanders, "He is one of them!" But Peter denied it again. A little later, the bystanders accused Peter again, "You can't deny that you are one of them, because you, too, are from Galilee." Then Peter said, "I swear that I am telling the truth! May god punish me if I am not! I do not know the man you are talking about!" Just then a rooster crowed a second time, and Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows two times, you will say three times that you do not know me." And he broke down and cried.

GREEN: I am Green! It is said that I symbolize envy, jealousy and hostility. Who better than me to represent the chief priests and elders and the Jewish Council. They resented the way the people were listening to Jesus. They were jealous of his power. (*Steps back. Assumes position.*)

READER: (*John 11:45-48,53; Matthew 27:18*) Many of

1 the people who had come to visit Mary saw what
 2 Jesus did, and they believed in him. But some of
 3 them returned to the Pharisees and told them what
 4 Jesus had done. So the Pharisees and the chief
 5 priests met with the council and said, "What shall
 6 we do? Look at all the miracles this man is
 7 performing! If we let him go on in this way,
 8 everyone will believe in him, and the Roman
 9 authorities will take action and destroy our temple
 10 and our nation!" From that day on, the Jewish
 11 authorities made plans to kill Jesus.

12 VIOLET: I am Violet! I represent a privileged class —
 13 nobility — those with royal status and power. I
 14 am the right color to clothe Pontius Pilate, the
 15 Roman governor. He had the authority and power
 16 to command Jesus' release *if* he had chosen to.
 17 (*Steps back. Assumes position.*)

18 ORANGE: I am Orange! I represent the feeling of
 19 anger, rage, wrath! Oh, the crowd wore me well
 20 as it responded to Pilate's plea to save the quiet
 21 Jesus. (*Steps back. Assumes position.*)

22 READER: (*John 19:10-16*) Pilate said to him [Jesus],
 23 "You will not speak to me? Remember, I have
 24 the authority to set you free and also to have
 25 you crucified." Jesus answered, "You have
 26 authority over me only because it was given
 27 to you by God. So the man who handed me
 28 over to you is guilty of a worse sin." When
 29 Pilate heard this, he tried to find a way to
 30 set Jesus free. But the crowd shouted back,
 31 "If you set him free, that means that you are
 32 not the emperor's friend! Anyone who claims
 33 to be a king is a rebel against the emperor!"
 34 When Pilate heard these words, he took Jesus
 35 outside and sat down on the judge's seat in the

1 place called "The Stone Pavement." It was then
 2 almost noon of the day before the Passover.
 3 Pilate said to the people, "Here is your king!"
 4 They shouted back, "Kill him! Kill him! Crucify
 5 him!" Pilate asked them, "Do you want me to
 6 crucify your king?" The chief priests answered,
 7 "The only king we have is the emperor!" Then
 8 Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

9 BLUE: I am Blue! I represent grief, unhappiness,
 10 sadness or sorrow. A dull, somber color. How
 11 fitting that I attire those who witnessed the
 12 crucifixion — the mourning, tearful women —
 13 especially Mary, grieving the loss of her son.
 14 *(Steps back. Assumes position.)*

15 INDIGO: I am Indigo! A deeper shade of blue, I
 16 represent the afternoon hours of the day of the
 17 crucifixion. *(Steps back. Assumes position.)*

18 READER: *(Luke 23:27, 44-46; John 19:25-27)*
 19 A large crowd of people followed Jesus; among
 20 them were some women who were weeping and
 21 wailing for him. Standing close to Jesus' cross
 22 were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the
 23 wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw
 24 his mother and the disciple he loved standing
 25 there; so he said to his mother, "He is your son."
 26 Then he said to the disciple, "She is your mother."
 27 It was about twelve o'clock when the sun stopped
 28 shining and darkness covered the whole country
 29 until three o'clock; and the curtain hanging in
 30 the temple was torn in two. Jesus cried out in a
 31 loud voice, "Father! In your hands I place my
 32 spirit!" He said this and died.

33 RED: I am Red! I represent the shedding of blood,
 34 the taking of life. Was it not enough that Jesus
 35 be nailed to the cross? *No!* The Soldiers pierced

1 his tortured body with a spear. Bloodshed. I am
2 *Red. . .death. (Stays in place. Drops head down.)*

3 READER: (*John 19:33-34, 36-37; Mark 15:45-46*)

4 When they came to Jesus, they saw that he was
5 already dead, so they did not break his legs. One
6 of the soldiers, however, plunged his spear into
7 Jesus' side and at once blood and water poured
8 out. After hearing the officer's report, Pilate told
9 Joseph he could have the body. Joseph bought a
10 linen sheet, took the body down, wrapped it in
11 the sheet, and placed it in a tomb which had been
12 dug out of solid rock. Then he rolled a large stone
13 across the entrance to the tomb. (*Choir sings quiet*
14 *hymn or spiritual, perhaps "Were You There" or*
15 *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross."*)

16 NARRATOR: Wait one minute! Something is wrong
17 here. . .we seem to be missing part of the story.
18 We've heard about *Cowardice, Envy, Power, Anger,*
19 *Sadness, Darkness and Bloodshed. . .*but, the
20 message of Easter is a happy, joyous one, filled
21 with hope and promise. For though Christ suffered,
22 and died to save us from our sins, he rose from
23 the dead to prepare a place for us. (*Sits in front.*)

24 READER: (*Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20; Mark 16:19*)

25 After the Sabbath, as Sunday morning was dawning,
26 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look
27 at the tomb. Suddenly there was a violent
28 earthquake; an angel of the Lord came down from
29 heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. His
30 appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were
31 white as snow. The guards were so afraid that they
32 trembled and became like dead men. The angel
33 spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid,"
34 he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who
35 was crucified. He is not here; he has been raised,



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