

THE COLORS OF EASTER: A CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

*Based on the Script by Rhonda Wray
Music and Lyrics by Christy Long*



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The Colors of Easter: A Children's Musical

**A children's presentation
in music and art**

**Music and lyrics by Christy Long
Based on the script 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)

CHOIR

(An unlimited number of children may participate.)

PRODUCTION NOTES

Synopsis

Painting, singing, and dramatic speaking — many children may be involved in this creative musical that highlights events of the first Easter as they relate to a palette of hues: green for the palms at the Triumphal Entry, pink for the sunrise on the third day, gray for the tomb, and eight others. A child reader shares how his or her shade symbolizes an aspect of Easter as a child artist paints a simple outline of each object or symbol. Interspersed are color-coded portions of “Easter Colors,” an infectious tune with piano accompaniment especially keyed to children’s voices. The eleven verses build to a stirring finale, after which children may hand out bags of candy with “A Jelly Bean Prayer” inside. This is an easy-to-present musical featuring highly flexible casting, charming children’s voices, and great visual appeal!

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.

Choir members may wear a variety of bright colors or robes.

Stage

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

Props

Eleven pieces of poster board or a 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.

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Pictures: The pictures are an attention-grabbing visual reinforcement for the narration. The part of the 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, so that the Artist Child may hand the painting to each child. Children 1-11 hold their paintings at their sides until the end, when they display their pictures during the “Easter Colors” finale.

Music

Following the narrative of each color, a verse of “Easter Colors” is sung. This will be easy for the children to learn with the same melody repeated each time. The performance concludes with the “Easter Colors” finale.

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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SONGS

1. Easter Colors, Verse 1 (Green)
2. Verse 2 (Black)
3. Verse 3 (Brown)
4. Verse 4 (Purple)
5. Verse 5 (Red)
6. Verse 6 (Gray)
7. Verse 7 (Orange)
8. Verse 8 (Pink)
9. Verse 9 (White)
10. Verse 10 (Blue)
11. Verse 11 (Yellow)
12. Easter Colors Finale

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 **EASTER CHILD:** **I’m in!** *(Sits in the chair that is On-stage.)*

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

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

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SONG:

11

Verse 1, "Easter Colors"

12

13 **CHOIR:** (*Singing*) Green are the palms that wave.

14

Hosanna to him that saves.

15

Through the winter chill the plants bloom still,

16

Just like the life he gave.

17

18

Easter artist, show the way.

19

Paint us a picture today.

20

Use your brush to tell the Easter tale.

21

Green is the color.

22

23

(*ARTIST CHILD gives green leaf painting to CHILD 1, who steps to one side of the stage, beginning to form a line.*)

25

CHILD 2 (BLACK): (*Enters waving a black ribbon or streamer, but*

26

not too exuberantly, and stands at the microphone. ARTIST

27

CHILD paints a simple sad face using black paint throughout

28

the following lines and second verse of "Easter Colors.") **Black**

29

is the darkest of colors. Think of what a dull place the

30

world would be without the beauty of the many hues

31

around us! It makes sense then that black stands for

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death, darkness, sorrow, and sin. Jesus told the officials

33

who arrested him, "This is your hour — when darkness

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reigns" (*Luke 22:53*). You might say black is the color of

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Good Friday. Scripture tells us that after Jesus was

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crucified, "darkness came over the whole land until

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three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining"

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(*Luke 23:44-45*). It's reassuring to know that we are not

SONG:

Verse 3, "Easter Colors"

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CHOIR: (*Singing*) **Brown is his cross of wood.**

See the place where it stood.

There on Calvary he set us free

As Jesus only could.

Easter artist, show the way.

Paint us a picture today.

Use your brush to tell the Easter tale.

Brown is the color.

(*ARTIST CHILD gives brown cross painting to CHILD 3, who 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 and fourth verse of "Easter Colors."*) **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, "Easter Colors"

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CHOIR: (*Singing*) Purple robe fit for a king.

Let his praises ring.

For his majesty is there to see.

Lift your voice and sing.

Easter artist, show the way.

Paint us a picture today.

Use your brush to tell the Easter tale.

Purple is the color.

(*ARTIST CHILD gives purple crown painting to CHILD 4, who 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 and fifth verse of "Easter Colors."*) **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 hematohidrosis (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, "Easter Colors"

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4 **CHOIR:** (*Singing*) Red is the blood he gave.

5 On the cross he was slain.

6 He was crucified then he died,

7 Gave his life away.

8
9 Easter artist, show the way.

10 Paint us a picture today.

11 Use your brush to tell the Easter tale.

12 Red is the color.

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14 (*ARTIST CHILD gives red heart painting to CHILD 5, who*
15 *stands beside CHILD 4.*)

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

SONG:

Verse 6, "Easter Colors"

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4 **CHOIR:** (*Singing*) Gray is the tomb where Jesus lay,
5 Then the stone rolled away.
6 He was once inside, but now alive.
7 Don't weep. He is not here.
8
9 Easter artist, show the way.
10 Paint us a picture today.
11 Use your brush to tell the Easter tale.
12 Gray is the color.

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14 (*ARTIST CHILD gives gray rock painting to CHILD 6, who*
15 *stands beside CHILD 5.)*

16 **CHILD 7 (ORANGE):** (*Enters waving an orange ribbon or streamer*
17 *and stands at the microphone. ARTIST CHILD paints some*
18 *simple flames using orange paint throughout the following*
19 *lines and seventh verse of "Easter Colors.")* **The color orange**
20 **speaks to us of fire and also the Holy Spirit. After the**
21 **Crucifixion, "some there had kindled a fire in the**
22 **middle of the courtyard. Peter sat with the guards and**
23 **warmed himself at the fire. A servant girl saw him**
24 **seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him**
25 **and said, 'This man was with him.' But he denied it.**
26 **'Woman, I don't know him,' he said"** (*Luke 22:55-57, Mark*
27 *14:54*). Fire was later used in a powerful way as a symbol
28 of the Holy Spirit. Consider this from the day of
29 Pentecost: "They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire
30 that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of
31 them were filled with the Holy Spirit ..." (*Acts 2:3-4*). And
32 finally, a fire-related reminder: "Let us be thankful, and
33 so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for
34 our God is a consuming fire" (*Hebrews 12:18-19*).

SONG:

Verse 7, "Easter Colors"

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CHOIR: (*Singing*) Orange is the Spirit's fire
 Filling us with desire.
 Cleanse my sin. Enter in,
 Burn with holy fire.

Easter artist, show the way.
 Paint us a picture today.
 Use your brush to tell the Easter tale.
 Orange is the color.

(*ARTIST CHILD gives orange flame painting to CHILD 7, who 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 and eighth verse of "Easter Colors."*) **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, "Easter Colors"

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CHOIR: (*Singing*) Pink is the color of sunrise.

Promises of new life.

In the light of dawn,

the Lord is gone,

Risen from the grave.

Easter artist, show the way.

Paint us a picture today.

Use your brush to tell the Easter tale.

Pink is the color.

(*ARTIST CHILD gives pink sunrise painting to CHILD 8, who 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 and ninth verse of "Easter Colors."*) **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**



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