



#59931

CANDY CANE CHRISTMAS

Cast: *Narrator; two readers; two decorators; one person to be the candy cane; and volunteers from the audience.*

Props: *Person dressed as candy cane in white clothing, wrapped in a white sheet or a white tablecloth; straight pins, sticky tape or other material to attach ribbon to candy cane; red ribbon in two weights; green ribbons; two large yard size candy canes.*

Narrator: If we look around us, we can see reminders of God's love for us in many things. Let's take a look at the candy cane.

(Candy cane comes into the room.)

Narrator: You see before you a piece of white candy. Yes, it is a **big, a very big** piece of white candy. The white of the candy cane represents the sinless life of Jesus. Even though Jesus was tempted just as we are He never sinned. God wants us to try to live our lives in a Christ-like way. He provides a way out when we are tempted. When we do sin and repent, He restores us. Jesus is our restorer.

Reader 1: *“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13*

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin.” Hebrews 4:15

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

Narrator: A candy cane is made of hard candy. *(Knock on candy cane's head. Off stage, someone knocks on wood.)* Yes, our candy cane is definitely **hard!** This can be reminder that Jesus is our Rock!

Reader 2: *“He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.” Psalm 40:2 (NIV)*

“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout to the Rock of our salvation” Psalm 95:1 (NIV)

Narrator: Let’s all sing for joy by singing stanza one of *Rock of Ages Cleft for Me*. TLH #376 LW#361

Narrator: ***The wide red strip found on a candy cane reminds us of the blood that Jesus shed on the cross for us. His blood provides forgiveness for our sins. Jesus is our righteousness!***

(Decorators wrap wide red ribbon around candy cane.)

Reader 1: ***“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21***

“In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” Luke 22:20

“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him.” Romans 5:9

“But if we walk in light, as he is the light, we have fellowship with one another; and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7

Narrator: The color green is often used to symbolize new life, just as the green seen in creation at springtime. Sometimes a green stripe is added to a candy cane as a reminder that God has given us new life in Christ. This new life on earth and in heaven is a free gift from our loving, caring Creator.

(Decorators wrap a green ribbon around candy cane.)

Reader 2: ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new is come!” 1 Corinthians 5:17***

“Put on a new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:24

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8, 9

Narrator: Please join in singing stanza one of *Amazing Grace* LW #509

The narrow red stripes on the candy cane can remind us of the wounds Jesus bore for us. The Roman soldiers beat Christ leaving red stripes of His body. By his stripes we are healed, Jesus is our healer!

(Decorators put three rounds of narrow red ribbon on candy cane.)

Reader 1: *But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5*

“He Himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24

Narrator: These three narrow red stripes can also represent the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Reader 2: *“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2 Corinthians 13:14*

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.” John 15:26

Narrator: Let’s join our voices in singing the first two stanzas of *Glory Be to God on High* AGPS #99

Narrator: Candy canes are shaped like a shepherd’s staff – a tool used to bring sheep close to the shepherd. As our shepherd, Jesus wants us to depend on Him. He wants us to know and obey His voice, Jesus is our good Shepherd!

Reader 1: *“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” Psalm 23*

“He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.” Isaiah 40:11

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11

Narrator: Now let’s again raise our voices by singing the first stanza of *I am Jesus’ Little Lamb*. TLH #648 LW #517

Narrator: The candy cane can also remind us that Jesus is the Lamb of God. Most candy canes are peppermint-flavored. Peppermint reminds us of hyssop – another member of the mint family. God instructed the Hebrews in Egypt to use hyssop to apply the lambs’ blood to their doorframes at Passover. Just as the

blood of the sacrificed lambs saved the believing children of Israel, so Jesus, the Lamb of God who shed His blood on Calvary, saves us who believe in Him.

Reader 2: *“Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your house and strike you down.” Exodus 12:21-23*

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

“In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.” Revelation 5:12

Narrator: We praise the Lamb by singing stanza 1 of *Crown Him with Many Crowns* TLH #341; LW #278

Narrator: An upside down candy cane also has meaning for us. Can I have some strong volunteers to help turn our candy cane upside down so you can see what I mean?

(Candy cane gets a look of great fear on her face. She strongly shakes her head.)

What? Our candy cane does not want to be turned upside-down? Are you sure?

(Candy cane emphatically nods her head.)

Ok, volunteers, perhaps we will be able to use you later. We will just have to use our imagination for this one. An upside-down candy cane forms the letter “J” – the first letter of Jesus’ name. Jesus is our Savior! Perhaps those of us who have candy cane jewelry could wear it upside down. Someone might ask us why it is upside down and we could use the opportunity to share about the love of Jesus.

Reader 1: *“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21*

Narrator: Please join in singing stanzas 1, 3 and 7 of *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds* TLH #364 LW #279

Narrator: To share with you one final way a candy cane can serve as a reminder, I will again ask for help from two volunteers (*Candy cane looks worried*) Relax, Candy Cane, it will be okay.

(Two volunteers come forward, each holding one of the large yard candy canes so that the two of them forms a heart.)

Narrator: Two candy canes held together like this form a heart, reminding us of God's great love for us.

Reader 2: *“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” 1 John 4:7-11*

Narrator: We sing of God's love for us with stanzas 1 and 3 of *God Loves Me Dearly*. AGPS# 109

Narrator: Each of us can share the love of Jesus by loving people through our actions, our words and our resources. This Advent and Christmas season share candy canes with people you see and tell them about the great love God for all of us.

Please join me in singing stanza 1 and 2 of *Joy to the World* TLH# 87; LW#53