

John 3:14-21 Arranged for “God Rods”

God Rods are dowel rods, ¼” - ½” diameter and 2-2 ½ feet long, that are used for interpretive movement of songs or scripture. The rods are often painted white to make them more visible. The presentation can be done solo or by a troupe. Multiple players can act in unison or in relationship with each other. This piece is arranged without player interaction.

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,

Hold one rod straight up and “slither” the second one up around it

so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

Both rods straight up over head, then out to the sides, droop head to one side

that whoever believes in him

Rods crossed over the chest

may have eternal life.

Swing rods up and outward, circling down to sides

For God so loved the world

Cradle rods in arms like a baby

that he gave his only Son,

Offer rods outward like a gift

so that everyone who believes in him

Rods crossed over the chest

may not perish

Rods “wither,” sagging toward the floor

but may have eternal life.

Swing rods up and outward, circling down to sides

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,

One rod pointing up and out (sending), then quickly slashing down (like a gavel, sword, or axe)

but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Gently lift both rods up from near the floor like a new found treasure

Those who believe in him

Rods across chest

are not condemned;

Hurray!

but those who do not believe are condemned already,

Rods crossed in an X at arm’s length, look askance

because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

One rod across the chest, the other at arm’s length, warding off

And this is the judgment,

Balance one or both rods in the center, tipping a little either way, like a scales

that the light has come into the world,

Hold left palm face down, chest high. Hold both rods in right hand near one end. Push the rods up through the fingers of the left hand, like sun rising or flower blooming, then rising up and to the right, like a torch

and people loved darkness rather than light

“Torch” stays; turn face away and ward off the light with left hand...

because their deeds were evil.

Look away from the “torch” leering into the darkness, and reach out to it with left hand

For all who do evil hate the light

Turn back, glowering at the light

and do not come to the light,

Bring hands to sides, stand sideways as if backing up against a wall, trying to get away from light

so that their deeds may not be exposed.

Hide from the light, hands up to cover

[PAUSE]

But those who do what is true

Stand straight and tall, right hand to heart

come to the light,

One step forward, hold up light again, on center; look up at it

so that it may be clearly seen

Take one rod in each hand, and spread them out from the center, as if laying out something for display

that their deeds have been done in God.”

Offer rods upward, like a gift to God

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