

Circle of friends dramatize Christ's victory

In one of the worship services held during the Calvin Symposium on Worship, students from the Christian Learning Center Circle of Friends Drama Team based at Zeeland (Michigan) Christian School, performed a drama portraying the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Consisting of persons with special needs as well as their classroom peers, the team chose a wordless drama because they wanted to show their love for Jesus, but some members of the group are unable to do so effectively with words.

In the drama several of the children crowded around a box, opened it up, and removed brown scarves, which were placed around their necks. A boy with Down Syndrome dressed in white (who played the role of Jesus) and two girls dressed in white robes (who played the role of angels) stood to the side. Another boy dressed in black signified Death. A large red shawl was placed around "Jesus'" neck. "Death" and the children in brown scarves grabbed "Jesus" and nailed him to an imaginary cross.

The boy with Down Syndrome portrayed our Lord's crucifixion – the agony, the pain, and the final slumping in death – with incredible emotion. Later,

he was lowered to the floor and covered with the brilliant red cloth. The "angels" showed the passing of time as they rotated around his body. Then they removed the red shawl. "Jesus" leaped up. His radiant face conveyed the glorious victory of the resurrection.

The "angels" stood in front of "Jesus," holding the red shawl between them. As "Jesus" watched, two by two, the children passed beneath the red shawl, which signified the blood of the Lamb. The resurrected "Jesus" removed their brown scarves and replaced them with vividly colored ones.

In response to their new life in Christ, the children scattered seeds from wheat sheaths over the stage floor, bringing to mind Jesus' words, "Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (John 12:24).

The Circle of Friends' drama was one of the Symposium's highlights for me. I saw the love of Christ revealed on the children's faces and through their actions. I'll not soon forget the look on the face of the boy with Down Syndrome when he leaped to life.