
Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Children's Day

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"The childrens' Sabbath comes again,
With birds and flowers bright,
With early fruits and gentle rain,
And floods of sunshine light.

Chorus:

All natures voices loud proclaim God's
Goodness great and free,
Let all the children praise his name
With glad sweet melody."

This is the first verse of a Children's Day hymn used in many Protestant churches during the late 19th Century. Childrens' Day or the Childrens' Sabbath as the hymn is entitled was usually held on the last Sunday of June. It marked the end of the regular Sunday School year with song, recitations and awards. It was a special and festive occasion for the whole congregation "With birds and flowers bright."

At the Cobblestone Universalist Church in Childs it was indeed, just that, one hundred years ago. Believe it or not, the balconies were decorated with baskets and garlands of flowers and people who had a pet canary or parrot would also bring them to church. The birds would be hung in their cages at every focal point throughout the sanctuary, except of course, "the parrot that swore."