

Lyceum 115, October 16, 2025 -- a forum to Think, Discuss, Share, and Learn from one another. Your input is welcomed - Iron sharpens iron.

Neighborhood “The 1826, in Connecticut, a farmer named Josiah Holbrook started a school for ‘the general diffusion of knowledge and raising the moral and intellectual taste’ of Americans. In those days, the opportunities for higher education were limited to those venerable old universities that had long served the upper crust. Holbrook’s vision was to make learning – practical, liberal, and humane – available to working people of all kinds. He named his school the Lyceum, after the garden where Aristotle once taught his students philosophy.... We need to go deeper than the superficial fights that characterize public life. We need to return to the first principles and meet each other there as human beings.”– Nathan Beacom, Plough Magazine, Autumn 2023, p. 9.

Roger J. Vanden Busch

Celtic Spirituality

It was a “holy worldliness” to use Bonhoeffer’s phrase where a comprehensive approach to life was expressed daily in the real incarnation ordinariness of life as it is. There was no false divide between the sacred and secular. Where an integrated life, of body and soul, work, and worship, wonder and ordinariness; prayer and life are the norm. A sacramental outlook that because it sees God in everything, encourages a reverence for God’s creation and a respect for the care of his world. An everyday spirituality of ordinariness is accessible to all. Never anti –intellectual, it was an earthed spirituality that met people where they were. People did not have to climb ecclesiastical walls or learn ‘holy God speak’ to encounter ‘a thin place.’ – Internet.

Esther De Waal puts it well; ‘The Celtic approach to God opens up a world in which nothing is too common to be exalted, and nothing is so exalted that it cannot be made common.’ They believed that the presence of God infused daily life and thus transforms it, so that at any moment, any object, any job of work, can become a place for encounter with God. In everyday happenings and ordinary ways, so that we have prayers for getting up, lighting the fire, getting dressed, milking the cow." -Internet.

A day in the life of the Spiritual Life – Taking off your shoes.

“Taking off your shoes is a sacred ritual. It is a hallowed moment of remembering the goodness of space and time. It is a way of celebrating the holy ground on which you stand. If you want to be a child of wonder cherish the truth that time and space are holy. Whether you take off your shoes symbolically or, matter little. What is important is that you are alive to the holy ground on which you stand and to the holy ground that you are.”-Marcina Wiederkehr in Seasons of Your Heart.

Seeing God in Your Ordinary Days

You do not plan it. Someone drops something, and your hand moves before you think. Or you pause to listen when you could have walked away. It does not want to do good, it just feels natural. Later, when the moment’s over, there is this quiet ease that lingers. You cannot name it, but it sits right. It is God showing up in the small things that never need to be noticed.

You Notice Him in the Sky

Some days it is a sunset that looks like other days, just a clear blue stretch that feels too perfect to be random. You look up, and for a second, the noise inside you quiets down. The sky does not answer questions or fix problems. But it reminds you of scale—how small we are yet somehow known. That is why we look up when we need peace.

You See Him in Children

Kids do not try to be impressive. They laugh at silly things, forgive easily, and ask the kind of questions adults forget how to ask. There is something pure in that—an unfiltered way of being. Watching a child play or cry reminds you of how close we all start to God before life complicates everything. Maybe that innocence is what we spend adulthood trying to find again.

You Feel Him in Music

A song plays, and suddenly you are back in a memory you did not expect to revisit. Sometimes it is a hymn, just a melody that feels bigger than sound. Music moves in

places words cannot reach. That is why it is one of His favorite ways to meet people—quietly, through rhythm and echo, slipping past logic straight into the heart.

You See Him in Forgiveness

It is not easy, and it never feels clean. You forgive someone who does not deserve it, or you are forgiven when you least expect it. The air changes afterward. It is not about pretending nothing happened; it is about releasing something that has been eating you from the inside. That relief—that breath after holding it too long—feels divine in ways you cannot put into words.

You Find Him at Work

Even in the ordinary kind—the typing, cleaning, errands, calls. It is not about being spiritual at every task but about showing up with care and attention. When you do something well just because it is worth doing right, you feel strange peace. God does not always appear in churches. Sometimes he is right there in your daily rhythm, watching how you treat what seems small.

You Sense Him in Pain

It is the hardest place to look for Him, but pain has a strange way of clearing out illusions. You start praying differently—not to ask for comfort, just for presence. You stop trying to understand and start trying to endure. Somewhere in that raw space, he shows up. Not to take it away, but to make sure you are not alone in it.

You See Him in the Ordinary Faces

The cashier who remembers your order, the neighbor who waves every morning, the friend who checks in without needing a reason. There is quiet grace in people who make life easier for others. They do not preach; they show up. That is one of God's favorite disguises—ordinary people doing small, consistent things that keep the world kind.

You Feel Him When You Let Go

Sometimes things fall apart, and you are too tired to fight. You do not plan it; you stop trying. The noise in your head fades, and what is left is quiet. Not joy, not even relief—just space. After a while, that space feels lighter. That is Him, not fixing anything, just helping you breathe again.

You See Him in the Quiet Acts of Love

It is the neighbor who waves every morning. The friend who stays until you stop crying. Nobody calls it kindness, but it is. You do not thank them enough because you do not know how. Later, when it is quiet, you think about how those moments save you in small ways. That is what His love feels like, ordinary but steady.

You Notice Him in Nature's Patterns

The world keeps repeating itself: the same street, the same sunlight, the same rain on the windows. You get tired of it sometimes, then one day you notice how much peace lives in that sameness. The trees do not rush. The earth keeps going. He built it that way, so we would learn to slow down, too. It is constant.

You See Him When You Are Grateful

It sneaks up on you sometimes midway through dinner, or when you realize the day turned out fine after all. You pause, and everything feels clearer. Gratitude does not fix anything, but it softens the edges. It makes you see how much is already right. In that quiet awareness, you can almost feel Him nearby—not distant or unreachable, just present, sitting quietly in the middle of your ordinary day.

You Feel Him in Survival

Do you remember the week you thought would break you? It did not. You showed up anyway. The meals still happened, the mornings still came. You do not call it faith at the time, but that is what is still moving when you do not know how. Looking back, it feels like he was there the whole time, holding the parts you could not. -Internet.

God often appears in human form and in nature. The Word is made flesh. “Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature, even a caterpillar, I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature.” -Meister Eckhart.