

Lyceum 113, October 2, 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.

All God’s creatures big and small.

Jane Goodall, the renowned conservationist who shaped the world's knowledge of chimpanzees, has died at the age of 91.

At the event Wednesday, a moment of silence was held for Goodall, and a prerecorded video was played of her talking about the importance of youth and their ability to change the world.

Goodall started documenting the lives and habits of chimpanzees in Tanzania as a young woman in the 1960s — but her passion for animals began long before that, in childhood. She [told CBS News](#) she would spend hours in a tree at her home in Bournemouth, England, with library books, dreaming of Africa. "I'll go to Africa, live with animals, and write books about them. That was it," she said.

Benediction for the animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4, 2025.

“Most high, all powerful, good Lord,

Yours are praises, glory, honor, and all blessings.

Praised by you, my Lord, with all your creatures especially Sir Brother Sun,

Who is the day and through whom you give us the light.” -St. Francis.

“Beasts, ask now the beasts, and they shall teach you, and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell you; or speak to the earth, and it shall teach you; and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto you.” – Job 12:7-8.

“Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering, for any that are hunted or lost, or deserted or frightened or hungry, all that must be put to death. We ask for them all your mercy and pity, and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kind words. Make us, ourselves, to be true friends to animals and so to share the blessings of the merciful.” – Albert Schweitzer.

“Love animals, God has given them the rudiments of thought and joy untroubled. Do not trouble their joy, do not harass them, do not deprive them of their happiness, do not work against God’s intent. Do not pride yourself on superiority to animals, they are without sin, and you, with your greatness, defile the earth your appearance on it, and leave traces of foulness after you, alas, it is true of almost everyone of us!” – Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

“Ó God, I thank you for all the creatures you have made, so perfect in their kind – great animals like the elephant and the rhinoceros, humorous animals like the camel and the monkey, friendly ones like the dog and the cat, working ones like the horse and the ox, timid ones like the squirrel and the rabbit, majestic ones like the lion and the tiger, for birds with their songs. O Lord give us such love for your creation, that love may cast out fear, and all your creatures see in us their priest and friend, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” -George Appleton.

“We ate no flesh in Eden, but afterwards, when thing got hard, we forgot the peaceful kinship of that ancient kingdom. As our teeth sank into their flesh, we had to deny them. So, we said they had no souls, no reason, no thumbs, no speech. We were different. We made a chain of things to protect us – fire, medicine, our locking houses, many kinds of clothes. And we renamed them – farm product, fur crop, renewable resource. Pray that we will see their faces again in the mirror of creation, the miracle of animals, their clear eyes meaning more than profit to our own.” -Jean Pearson.

“O God, scatterer of ignorance and darkness grant me your strength. May all beings regard me with the eye of a friend, and I all beings! With the eye of a friend may each single being regard all others! “- Slikla Yajur.

“I hear a voice, the cry of a wounded animal. Someone shoots an arrow at the moon; a small bird has fallen from the nest. People must be awakened, witness must be given, so that life may be guarded.” -W.S Rendra.

“Ah, Power that swirls us together, grant us Bliss. Grant us the great release and to all Beings vanishing and wounded; and in trouble on earth, we pass on this love.” -Gary Synder.

“In safety and in Bliss, may all creatures be of a blissful heart. Whatever breathing beings there may be: frail or firm, long or big, short, or small, seen or unseen, dwelling far or near, existing, or yet seeking to exist. May all creatures be of a blissful heart.” – Sutta Nipata.

“You are the last whale, washed up on a far beach. The waves are pushing against you. Your brothers and sisters are gone. The light is too bright for your eyes. You cannot breathe. Small children are throwing rocks and laughing, climbing onto your body. You die alone; your ears are full of wind.

You are the last buffalo. The sun is setting over the plains. You stand alone, enormous, heavy with fur, lonely. You are tired of running, tired of running. All your friends are gone. The earth has turned against you. There is not one to say goodbye. You rest, listening to the wind. When the time is right, the spirit of the wolf returns.” Gary Lawless.

“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.

Blessing of the animals:

+God created animals that swim and fly,

And other creatures under the sky.

+He shaped the hippo and the rhino,

Adding color to the parrot and albino.

+He gave the wolf a sound like a howl,

While to other animals, freedom to prowl.

+The zebra was painted in black and white stripes,

God formed big, sharp teeth, and helping others to bite.

+Horses, lions and a huge, brown bear,

God covered them all with a warm, blanket of hair.

+The kangaroo, ostrich, and the snake,
God painted the chameleon to look like a fake.

+Monkeys, spiders, and eagles that soar,
Not forgetting the insects that race across the floor.

+Cats, dogs (Sophie, Rambeau, Abby, and Ivy) and turtles too,
One by one God filled up the zoo.

+God graced the giraffe with a long, slender neck,
And cursed the chicken to scratch and peck.

+The deer and gazelle God designed to leap,
adding a bunch of fluffy, docile sheep.

+The cow was enhanced with bovine eyes,
While owls hooted a word to the wise.

+ God created the animals with love and care,
Giving them to us to feed, raise, and share.

+ All God's creatures, stuffed, big and small –
Gather this colorful day of spring, winter, summer, or fall.

+Bless them all, in the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
And for all of us taking this time to hear it. – Roger J. Vanden Busch.

Pawverbs.

“Here we are, two different species, but we have this deep connection, one that has been going on for centuries, ever since the first wolf and the first human being decided to hang out together. It is a beautiful not-furry and furry, one who talks and one who communicates differently, two-legged and four-legged. But relating on each other.” – Deb Caletti.

“Be alert as you watch a dog at play or at rest. Let the animal teach you to feel home in the Now, to celebrate life by being completely present.” -Eckhart Tolle.

Finally, if you want to connect 24/7 without traveling great distances to experience various creatures of God throughout the world, check out [Explore.org](https://www.explore.org) to observe them,

admire them, respect them, and yes, even imitate them – they are Imago Dei. Fall in love with the world again. Source, September 21, 2025, “Sunday Morning ”one of my favorite programs, it is like taking a course in the Introduction to Humanities.– rvb.