

“It ain’t no sin to be glad you’re alive’: Praise in an Age of Agitation”

Four talks by Dr Christopher Ruddy



The 2022 Pluscarden Pentecost Lectures

will be livestreamed
7th – 9th June 2022

We live in times marked by the omnipresence of agitation – political, religious, economic, cultural, ‘virtual’, psychological, familial. Anger and unsettledness are everywhere. And, yet, the first words that the Church speaks every day are: “Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise!”

These lectures will suggest that such agitation is rooted in a rejection of the goodness of being, in a self-hatred that leads ineluctably to death.

Praise, rightly understood and lived, is not escapism, irresponsibility, or even complicity in oppression. It is the highest possible affirmation of God’s goodness and – in the words of the American musician Bruce Springsteen – of the joy in being alive.

1. Tuesday 7th June at 3.00 pm
Context: An Age of Agitation, Anger, and Acedia

2. Wednesday 8th June at 10.30 am
Creator and Creation:
The Affirmation of Dependence

3. Wednesday 8th June at 3.00 pm
Christ and Church: “In the midst of the congregation I will praise you” (Ps 22 [21]:22)

4. Thursday 9th June at 10.30 am
Consequences: A Praise-Filled Life

All the lectures will be livestreamed from the USA. Please check the Abbey website for the link: www.pluscardenabbey.org