Hope Ripples: Craig Rees and Lynn Bruce
Main Auditorium & Chapel | 26 November 2023

Big Idea: Christian hope, anchored in God's presence and Christ's work, confronts escapism, fatalism, and humanism and produces love, steadfastness, expectancy, holiness, and generosity.

Scriptures: Rom. 15:13; Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 1:3; Hebrews 6:19, 10:23; 11:1; 1 John 3:3; 1 Tim. 6:17-18; Eccl. 9:4

1. How does escapism manifest in our lives, and what impact does it have on our engagement with the world? For example, in what ways do Christians sometimes use the idea of the rapture or future heavenly existence as escapism from current challenges?

2. How can we distinguish between faith and fatalism in our lives? Share personal experiences or examples where fatalism hindered Christian engagement in addressing societal issues.

3. How do we sometimes detach our hope from Christ's work and fall into the trap of humanism? In what areas of our lives or culture do we see symbols of faith being used for purposes not directly tied to Christ's reconciling and transforming work?

4. How does hope contribute to the flourishing of love in our relationships, and why is it essential for believers? Share practical examples of how hope can positively impact our interactions with others.

5. How does hope serve as an anchor for our souls, especially in challenging times? Discuss ways hope can deepen our commitment and perseverance in the Christian journey.
6. How does hope influence our expectancy, particularly in anticipating Christ's return? Explore the connection between hope and our participation in sacraments like communion.

7. In what ways does hope contribute to personal holiness and the pursuit of a pure life? Share testimonies or stories of individuals whose hope in Jesus led to transformative, holy living.

8. How does hope inspire generosity, and why is it crucial for Christians to be generous with their possessions? Discuss practical steps to cultivate a spirit of generosity rooted in hope rather than material wealth.