

Prayer of Confession

Giver of Life:

You are the vine and we are the branches. We praise you for creating and sustaining us. Thank you for giving our lives purpose and meaning. You are more precious even than the air we breathe.

Yet, even while planted and rooted in your love, we have broken our branch free from your vine. We have come to believe we can support and justify our own lives. To bolster this untruth, we paint false fruit on our withering branches and stand tall as our roots thirst for you.

Forgive us for pretending as if we don't need you every moment of every day. Forgive our lives of producing little if any fruit that reflects your glory and goodness. You chose us out of your mercy and grace and we have believed we deserved it. We confess we do not deserve your love but we desperately desire it.

Graft us back onto your vine. Bury our roots once more in your soil. Let our branches once again produce the fruit of the spirit. And may our lives once again bring the shade and protection of your peace to our world.



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3601 W Belleview Ave., Littleton, CO 80123
303-794-6851 www.sjpres.org

Welcome to
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
March 6, 2022



Following Jesus
THROUGH
The Cross

Scripture

Jesus Curses a Fig Tree and Clears the Temple Courts

12 The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. **13** Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. **14** Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, **16** and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. **17** And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

19 When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. **21** Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. **23** "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. **24** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. **25** And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Prelude Myka Raymond

Call to Worship Pastor Eugene Scott

***Opening Praise** *To God Be The Glory
House of The Lord* #56

Welcome & Announcements Pastor Eugene Scott

Prayer of Confession (see back) Pastor Eugene Scott

Gloria Patri #813

Anthem *Still, My Soul Be Still* Choir

Sharing Faith with our Children Matthew Gossom

Offering Pastor Eugene Scott

Offertory *All Who Are Thirsty* SJ Band

**Doxology* #814

Hearing The Word of God
Scripture Mark 11:12-25

Sermon: "Jesus' Authority for All"
Series: Journey with Jesus: Living in Jesus' Authority
Pastor Wayne Darbonne

Communion Pastor Wayne Darbonne
and Pastor Eugene Scott

***Closing Song** *For the Healing of the Nations*

Benediction Pastor Wayne Darbonne

* Please stand in body or in spirit