



# REDIRECT

Looking to Jesus as our **True North**

[www.ssuc.org.au](http://www.ssuc.org.au)

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with Rev. Jock Dunbar

## REDIRECT (2): Patient Repentance

*He replied, 'Sir, let [the fig tree] alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'*  
Luke 13:8-9

### Gathering with God

Holy One,  
we gather this day  
and come as we are  
with our repenting hearts,  
with our persistent dreaming.  
Accept all we bring before you today,  
accept our worship we pray. AMEN.

### Song

*God I look to you*

### Prayer of adoration and confession

Gracious God,  
you are so patient with us.  
Day in and day out,  
week in and week out,  
you call us to wake up  
to our opportunity to bear fruit and yet...

*Pause*

Lord,  
you know our strengths and our shortcomings better than we do ourselves.  
Ever patient and merciful,  
forgive us our wrongdoings.  
Plant seeds of changes in our hearts.

*Pause*

As we worship you this day,  
may your Word nourish us and strengthen us as we seek to be better followers of you.  
May we be buds  
of goodness and kindness,  
of light and of love.  
Patient God, hear us we pray. Amen.

### Preparing for worship...

BEFORE you watch the online service, or work through this liturgy provided, spend a few minutes to settle yourself into a comfortable space.

Close your eyes.

Slow your breathing.

Become aware of what you can feel in and around your body – what you can hear, or feel, or smell.

You may like to light a candle to help centre your thoughts toward the love and presence of the living God.

There is no expectation other than to become present to The Holy Presence.

## Reflection

I came upon this question in my research this week: What is waiting to ripen in your life? The fig tree takes time to GROW FRUIT, but the vineyard owner GROWS IMPATIENT instead. Are you, or have you been, impatient in the lack of fruit produced in your life or another's? Or frustrated at the lack of change in your life or another's? Jesus' ministry became focussed on Jerusalem's repentance, much like Jonah's was to Nineveh. It is possible that the fig tree was representative of Jerusalem (it's officials and religious hierarchy), the vineyard owner depicting God, and the gardener, Jesus. In another sense, it is possible to read this parable differently (as Jesus' parables can be) where the fig tree could become our church community, or even ourselves. In what ways is our church community being led to produce new fruit? What new fruit is being developed? In our own lives, what is God producing within and through us that is waiting to be revealed? I felt this strongly in prayer this week for myself. I saw God embracing me toward him/her (God transcends gender), and through this I began to see things wither and shed away from me, like snakeskin. At this point, I felt a kind of growth occur, something that had been waiting to emerge. I have no idea what this is, but I am trusting God with it, with me. During this Lent season, may you be led in a process of patient repentance – a redirecting to Christ which over time will produce good and new fruit. It is there, waiting to ripen. Peace, love and grace be with you.

What is waiting to ripen  
in your life?

## Offering

*We are a gift of God given for God's glory and the good of the world;  
we offer ourselves and what we have to share with and for others.*

## Prayers of Intercession

*Prayer concerns can be shared with the congregation  
by emailing to [prayer@ssuc.org.au](mailto:prayer@ssuc.org.au) or ringing the church office on 3848 0793.*

Lord, you know see our efforts to change and be renewed.  
As we come before you in prayer,  
may you help us to believe in ourselves  
as you believe in us.

Just as you are compassionate and gracious,  
may we think of ourselves,  
of our own hearts  
and be as compassionate to others as you are to us.  
Just as you are patient with us,  
may we be patient with you.  
May we trust that you hear us  
and you will answer in your time and in your way.  
May faith, hope and love continue to grow in each and every one of us.  
Amen.

### A Sending Out Prayer

And so our God remains patient with us once again  
as we seek ways to be better bearers of fruit.  
May we go to love and to serve God  
with all we have and in all that we do.  
And may we do it in the name of the Holy  
Trinity,  
the Father,  
the Son  
and the Holy Spirit.  
Now and forevermore.  
**Amen.**

## Song

## Waymaker