

National Junior High Sunday 2023

“Worried and Distracted,” based on Luke 10:40-42

Pastoral Prayer
by June Adams Gible
reprinted from *[For All Who Minister](#), pg. 117*

O God, in the stillness of these moments, we come to you. You are as near to us as our own breathing, as our innermost thoughts, as our deepest yearnings. You meet us here.

Can we also meet you, our God, in the ordinary paths of life? Do we see your face in the faces of persons around us?

Our confession is that we often miss your presence in the busyness of life. Forgive us when our eyes are blind or our hearts are hardened to your everyday presence.

Clear our vision this day, God, that we may find you more clearly, in laughter and in tears, in celebration and in sorrow, in the freshness of childhood, in the vitality of youth, in the productivity of mid-life, in the integrity of older age. O God, help us to see you in all of life.

Today we gather as part of Christ’s body. We pray for each person and all that we bring: some of us are celebrating family visits, birthdays, anniversaries, milestones reached.

Be witness as a special guest in our joys and our celebrations. *(The pastor or worship leader can pray for the joys shared or invite congregation to pray silently.)*

Some of us are experiencing pain, illness, uncertainty, despair.

Healing and hope seem far removed from the present moment.

Grant, O God, the sure knowledge that you too know the meaning of pain and despair, and can be a close companion to us. *(The pastor or worship leader can pray for the concerns shared or invite congregation to pray silently.)*

God of all peoples, and all creation, we also bring concerns that reach far beyond this place of worship. *(The pastor or worship leader can pray for world needs or invite congregation to pray silently.)*

O God, touch us where we are unfeeling and uncaring; prod us where we are apathetic or stubborn; nurture us when we are slow to catch on; pick us up when we stumble and fall; challenge us to live as your children. Amen.