

Jigsaw Puzzles and Life – A Message from Pastor Karyn  
July 28, 2020

One of the things we have been working on during lockdown is a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle that is the hardest puzzle I have ever tried to solve. It is a cartoonish puzzle of a superstore with multiple items, people, animals, and greenery; and I swear it is not what I ordered. It's so hard. We have the outside edges finished but the inside is only about 25% complete. We work on it together and we talk while we work on it. Cindy works on it more than I do and has made more of the progress thus far. I get more frustrated than she does and give up too easily.

I have found it to be a pretty good metaphor for this time in isolation. Sometimes, it's really hard to see what things will look like in the end. Sometimes, we get excited by small victories and other times we just get frustrated. Sometimes, we can see where things fit and sometimes we don't. Sometimes we simply want to sit with someone and talk. Sometimes, we lose a piece and wonder if we can make things work out. Sometimes, we want to give up, but we have to come back and try again.

As I was thinking about this, I found this jigsaw puzzle prayer and wanted to share it with you because I believe it's talking about more than a puzzle.

O, thou passer of hours!  
O, thou beautiful beguiler!  
O, thou dumbest of activities!  
O jigsaw puzzle.

O frustration of assembly, pray for us.  
O brief sense of triumph, pray for us.  
O temptation to glue, pray for us.  
O gloom of dismemberment, pray for us.

O lost piece, have mercy on us.  
O incorrect fit, have mercy on us.  
O cat on the table, have mercy on us.

O, thou jigsaw puzzle.

When we could not think,  
you gave us mindlessness.

When nothing would resolve,  
you made order from madness.

When we did not know what to do,  
you gave us a purpose, slight and safe.

O, jigsaw puzzle!  
O thou Mostly Useless,  
O thou Bad Metaphor,  
O though Least Fun,  
raised to a time of high estate,  
soon to sink back into obscurity:  
you are a small pleasure when pleasure is often rare.

O, jigsaw puzzle,  
bless you.  
Amen.

(Written by Quinn G. Caldwell, adapted by PK)

As we continue to navigate this puzzling time, let's keep trying, keep celebrating small victories, keep working together, keep loving each other, and keep striving to finish up the best ways we can.

I pray for you all daily. Know that we will get through this tough puzzle and try to come out with a new sense of energy and adventure.

Grace and Peace –

PK  
(Pastor Karyn)