

10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Small

**“He prayeth well, who loveth well  
Both man and bird and beast.  
He prayeth best, who loveth best  
All things both great and small.”**

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge, The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

I'm still learning about jigsaws. I've already shared my mistakes and disappointments. But I've discovered something else. A "standard" 1000 piece jigsaw measures about 28" by 20", to fit nicely on a jigsaw board or a basic card-table. So when I had a new jigsaw delivered recently, packed in a tiny box, I was surprised to find that the pieces were extremely small, and that the completed jigsaw would be correspondingly *much* smaller than usual. I haven't figured out what the measurements are, because, a) I haven't started it yet (*and* it'll take me an age to finish) and, b) all the information on the box is in Chinese. But I promise I'll keep you posted.

But it got me thinking ... No matter how small the pieces, they'll all have a place. As it's a new jigsaw, there shouldn't be anything missing (hopefully!) There *will* be a place for every piece, no matter how small.

Some people feel small because of how they're treated, or where they live, or the jobs they have, or the way they look or behave. There are others who consider themselves to be among the big people of our world, important because of role, or education, or status, or background, or achievement. But if we are all made in the image of God and created the same, we are all deserving of being treated equally. *Every* piece, no matter how small it looks or feels, or how often it's compared to pieces elsewhere, every *single* piece has its place in the completed picture.

We pray best, wrote Coleridge, when we love all things, both the great and the small. So, who are the apparent "small" people in your world? What can you do to help them find their place? How might the smallest pieces be included in the finished picture you're trying to create, no matter how large or small that picture might be?

### **A Prayer for today**

*Creator God, you gave us equal importance, and we create divisions and differences.  
Forgive us, and help us make our world a more tolerant and accepting place. Amen*

*An original reflection by © Tom Gordon*

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