



Theme artwork by
LaCount Anderson

Lent at Lakeside:
My Heart as Sanctuary
My Life as Prayer
Devotion for Friday,
March 23, 2018

Where I'm From
By Lela Chesson

I come from Goodness and Mercy

I come from Julian and Frances
Gentle touches, smiling faces, kind words, and laughter.
I come from patient, accepting, understanding, simple, free.

I come from a back yard
With swings, see-saw, skinny cat bar
And a playhouse in the garage.
I come from quince, daffodils and dahlias
A garden of many vegetables.
I come from a small house
With a kitchen of peach jacks
Fork marks on their crispy fried edges.
I come from shelves of *Compton's Encyclopedia*
Mother's dictionary, Daddy's newspapers
And a radio.

I come from a front porch
And glasses of sweet ice tea with lemon
Lots of lemon.

I come from a street of balls, bats, roller skates
Sidewalks and sandspurs.
I come from a pink hand-painted bicycle
Its basket full of dog.
I come from the Planet Krypton alongside Superman
With Little Lulu, Little Rascals and Lash Larue.
I come from my brother's trombone and his model airplanes
And the smell of tobacco in the nearby warehouse.

I come from fields of grass
My forever friends
Mary Emma and Jeanne
On their stomachs beside me picking four leaf clovers
Double holsters on our buckled belts
Cap pistols loaded – our sure defense.
I come from climbing high
With the boys next door
Buddy and Robert
Lighting "Chinese cigars"
Pulled from Mrs. Manning's tree.

I come from Hot summer days
With oscillating fans;
Cold winter times
With Snowmen's eyes of real coal
Gathered from the railroad tracks
Beside the depot where Daddy worked.

I come from ballfields
For little boys only
And a swimming pool
For little white children only.

I come from
Stained glass windows
Preachers, pews, prayers
Sunday School teachers and Sunbeams.
I come from Scripture
Organ music and choirs.

I come from *Just As I Am* hymns
To rid my soul of dark blots
To welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve.
Oh Lamb of God
I come, I come.

Galatians 5:22-23, ESV

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Psalm 23:6

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Prayer

By Miriam Therese Winter

We turn to you,
God who gives grace in unexpected places,
and you teach us to look
with expectation
for goodness all around.
As we learn to see
through your eyes,
we are less and less disappointed,
and more and more grateful
that your grace in us
continues to prevail.
For this we thank you
and praise you.
Amen.

From *Woman Witness*. Crossroad Publishing: New York, 1992, p. 22.