



Theme artwork by  
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Lent at Lakeside:  
My Heart as Sanctuary  
My Life as Prayer  
Devotion for Monday,  
February 19, 2018

**I Have a Place**  
By Anne Whitaker

I have a place.  
I have a place of love.  
I have a place of meaningful worship.  
I have a place of learning.  
I have a place of beautiful music.  
I have a place of security.  
I have a place of hearing the perfect scripture.  
I have a place of working with community.  
I have a place of acceptance.  
I have a place of needed comfort.  
I have a place of guidance.  
I have a place of forgiveness.  
I have a place of hope.  
I have a place of encouragement.  
I have a place of support.  
I have a place of understanding.  
I have a place of joy.  
I have a place.

I have a place.....  
At Lakeside.  
Thanks be to God for my place.

## **Exodus 3:5**

Then God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

## **Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-10**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

## **Prayer:\***

Almighty God, who is beyond all our concepts of time and space, we thank you for important places and meaningful moments, because we need them. Our memories fail, our vision wanes and our energies flag, so we need reminders of those who have gone before us and of your faithfulness to them and to us.

We are grateful, O God, for our beautiful place of worship and for the lives that have been nurtured here. We thank you for those whose vision and tenacity gave rise to its walls and for those who have continued to serve within them. We give you praise for the faith that has been born, the prayers that have been offered, the music of praise which has been lifted, and the proclamation of your word that has reached far beyond the boundaries of a particular plot of land or the limits of our community. For every good gift you have given here and in every sacred place in which we experience your presence, we offer our thanks and praise.

Merciful God, even as we celebrate the significance of our place of worship, remind us that your church is defined not by the strength or beauty of a sanctuary but by the faith of those who gather, and that your Spirit dwells not behind stained glass windows, but in the lives of your children. As we come to worship you and as we depart to serve our neighbors, make us faithful to answer your call to minister to your children everywhere. Amen.

\*Adapted from a prayer offered on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of the Lakeside Baptist Church sanctuary.