



Theme artwork by
LaCount Anderson

**Lent at Lakeside:
My Heart as Sanctuary
My Life as Prayer
Devotion for Saturday,
March 17, 2018**

**Where I'm From
By Sheila Whitley**

I'm from Nash County, born in a tenant house on my granddaddy's farm.

I'm from Bill and Gladys. Mom was a school teacher, and my daddy was a railroad man—forced into farming by the Crash of '29.

I'm from Cap'n Billy's farm on Mill Branch Road. He was a community leader and lay preacher. And from my Grandmother Mittie, mother of nine and truly a saint.

I'm from a family of Baptists (some Free Will) from all the way back to the boat, I think.

I'm from Rocky Mount after the railroad called my dad back in '39.

I'm from First Baptist, where Dr. J.W. Kincheloe baptized me when I was 12, and Rev. Clarence and Betty Godwin guided me through my teens.

I'm from Rocky Mount High School where the friends made then are my friends now.

I'm from Lakeside Baptist Church as of opening day in June of '55.

I'm from a marriage to a wonderful guy who made a Methodist out of me 'til I came home in '02.

But most important of all, I'm from a God-loving, honest, and hard-working family who loved me, took me to Sunday School and church, spanked me when I deserved it, required me to do chores, taught me how to forgive if I want to be forgiven and to love if I want to be loved. They taught me to respect all people no matter the color, not to judge others until I had heard the whole story, and to live by the Golden Rule. I certainly did not always do this, but that's what they taught me to do.

How fortunate am I to be from where I'm from!

John 12:1-11

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

Prayer

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me
Afar and near,
Alone or in a multitude.

Christ shield me today
Against wounding
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through the mighty strength
Of the Lord of creation.
From *St. Patrick's Breastplate*