



Theme artwork by
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**Lent at Lakeside:
My Heart as Sanctuary
My Life as Prayer
Devotion for Thursday,
March 1, 2018**

**Where I'm From
By Jim Martin**

I am from a small community which took its name from the spot where Revolutionary War prisoners were released,
Where everyone knew everyone and Mom and Dad knew what you had done before you got home.

I am from Margaret and Jimmy, Loving and yet strict parents who taught me the meaning of love and living.
Both were respected citizens of the community.
For years after I was grown and moved away, when I returned for a visit and saw people who know me as a young person, they would say "You're Jimmy's boy ain't you?"

I am from the boarding house my maternal grandmother owned and where I lived with Mom and Dad during my childhood.
The boarders included teachers who made learning sound interesting; business men, bankers and engineers who spoke of opportunities for growth and development.
A place where I learned to listen to conversations and hear what people are saying.

I am from a small Southern (when that was a good word) Baptist Church,
Where Sunday School, 11 o'clock worship and BTU were the order of the day every Sunday, no exceptions,
Where teachers taught by example to be involved in church and community.

I am from sports. Football, basketball and baseball, we played them all in high school. Because our school was small in numbers, we learned that with teamwork we could compete with the big boys down the road.

I am from a university which teaches and lives its motto: "Pro Humanitate."

I am from Lakeside Baptist Church, a church which strives to embody the meaning of Baptist,
A church which encourages me never to stop learning, always to be involved, and to respect all people.
That is just like being back in that small community in the corner of Randolph County.

Mistakes, there have been many. Thanks be to God for grace and mercy.

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Prayer:

Loving Father,

So many times I turn away from you
and always you welcome me back.

Your mercy and love give me confidence

Thank you for the invitation to share, fast, and pray
so that you can form a new heart within me.

Your powerful compassion for my weaknesses
leads me to ask for mercy

and await with great hope the Easter joy you share with us.

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

(From *Praying Lent: An Online Ministry of Creighton University*)