



Theme artwork by
LaCount Anderson

**Lent at Lakeside:
My Heart as Sanctuary
My Life as Prayer
Devotion for Tuesday,
February 27, 2018**

**Where I'm From
By Jan Mullen**

I am from two loving Christian parents, Annie & Willie, growing up in the country,
the middle girl of three daughters and a brother 15 years older than I.

I am from a small town where everyone knew everyone else,
And everyone tried to help everyone else, when needed.

I am from walking to school through the path behind the WITN television station.
I am from working in tobacco and going home at lunch to clean up for I didn't like
getting dirty.

I am from playing hide and seek with my sisters, catching lightning bugs in jars and
lying in the yard in the middle of the daffodils and forming pictures from the clouds
above.

I am from evenings of sitting in the porch swing listening to the mocking bird on the
power line sing while my parents and grandmothers talked of former days.

I am from great home cooked meals from the garden with homemade biscuits served
every meal.

I am from clothes being hung outside to dry, hard work, getting spankings when
needed, and laughing so hard your sides hurt at nothing.

I am from a time when my dear older brother left to go fight in the Korean war, and being sad to know he was so far away. I would go into his room and take out a t-shirt to smell so I could feel close to him.

I am from being the most excited little girl upon seeing my brother step out of a cab below my grandmother's apartment window in Washington, NC, and being the first one down the stairs to leap into his arms~~so happy to have him back home from the war.

I am from watching my father get sick and being diagnosed with tuberculosis and spending lots of weekends with him in hospitals and helping our mom with all she had to do.

I am from a loving family who had our ups and downs but remained loyal and were always reminded of how much we were loved by family and God.

I am from here, this church, and feeling like the most blessed person to have found my son whom I gave up for adoption in 1967, and to have also been blessed with my sweet and loving daughter and her husband and my dear grandchildren!

Ephesians 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will.

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have surrounded me with people who always look out for me. You have given me family and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions. They lift me up in ways that keep my eyes focused on you and make my spirit soar.

Also, thank you, Lord, for keeping me safe. You protect me from those things that seem to haunt others. You help me make better choices and provide me with advisors to help me with life's difficult decisions. You speak to me in so many ways so that I always know you are here.

And Lord, I am so grateful for keeping those around me safe and loved. I hope that you provide me with the ability and sense to show them every day how much they matter. I hope that you give me the ability to give to them the same kindness they have provided to me.

I am extremely grateful for all of your blessings in my life, Lord. I pray that you remind me of just how blessed I am and that you never allow me to forget to show my gratitude in prayer and return acts of kindness. In Jesus' name, Amen.