



Theme artwork by
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**Lent at Lakeside:
My Heart as Sanctuary
My Life as Prayer
Devotion for Tuesday,
March 20, 2018**

**Where I'm From
By Carol Boseman Taylor**

I am from the farm.

From early morning breakfasts that my dad cooked just for the two of us.

From playing all day outside under the branches of the magnolia tree.

From sitting on the fence, talking with the cows (and with God) as the sun went down.

I am from parents who made it a priority to be in church.

From a grandmother who taught me the importance of "being there" for others.

From a grandfather and step-grandmother who let me hear them read the Bible and pray every single night I was with them in their log cabin in the woods.

I am from country living.

From learning how to pick sweet corn in the early morning.

From watching the cows being milked twice a day in the milking parlor.

From learning to pick beans and tomatoes in a bountiful garden.

From shelling butterbeans and peas on the back porch.

From learning (at an early age) how to can and freeze vegetables for the winter ahead.

From scuppernong grape picking under the arbor in the summertime.

From gathering eggs and helping prepare them for market.

From watching my dad work from sunup to sundown to make sure his family had enough.

I am from fun experiences.
From fishing from the pier at the pond.
From riding in a boat powered by paddles and later a 2 hp motor.
From cooking the fish we caught over an open fire.
From fresh watermelons cut in the backyard and eaten as the juice dripped down my face.
From short trips to the beach, only to return to find out the cows were out and had to be herded back.
From playing in mud puddles barefoot and splashing my brother.
From making mud pies in the sand pile.
From reading Nancy Drew mysteries on the front, screened porch.
From trips to Watson's country store for an ice-cold Coca-Cola.
And as an adult, from wonderful international travel experiences.

I am from becoming.
From becoming a teenager who always tried to do the right thing.
From a college student who missed home like crazy.
From meeting my soulmate and being blessed (this year) with 50 years of marriage.
From becoming a mother, not once but three times!
From becoming a grandmother to five amazing humans.
From becoming a knitter and turning that craft into a ministry in three churches.
From journaling my prayers and turning that into a listening experience that resulted in a book.

I am growing older, hopefully wiser and more compassionate as the years go by.
And in one of the serendipities of life,

I am, once again, from the farm.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Prayer

Loving God,

Be in my thoughts like a beacon to illumine the darkness.

Be in my heart like a child full of joy and wonder.

Be in my body like an untiring youth.

Be in my soul like a life-giving river.

Be in my speech like a poet's verse.

Be in my spirit like a mighty wind of change.

Take all that I am, make me a channel your grace,

And accomplish in and through me

More than I have dared to ask or imagine.

Amen