**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

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**Date: Sunday, April 23, 2017**

**Sermon Title: Brothers, What Shall We Do?**

**Scripture: Acts 2: 14a, 22-32, 36 *(New International Version)***

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. **23**This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. **24**But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. **25**David said about him:

“‘I saw the Lord always before me.
    Because he is at my right hand,
    I will not be shaken.
**26**Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
    my body also will rest in hope,
**27**because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
    you will not let your holy one see decay.
**28**You have made known to me the paths of life;
    you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

**29**“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. **30**But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **31**Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **32**God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

**36**“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

**1 Peter 1:3-9 *(New International Version)***

**3**Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4**and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, **5**who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6**In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7**These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. **8**Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, **9**for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) based on Psalm 16**

Leader: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;

 you hold my lot.

**People: The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;**

 **I have a glorious heritage.**

Leader: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

 even at night my heart instructs me.

**People: I have set the Lord always before me;**

 **the Lord is at my right hand;**

 **I shall not be moved.**

Leader: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

 my body also dwells secure.

**People: For you do not give me up to Sheol,**

 **or let your godly one see the pit.**

Leader: You show me the path of life;

**All: in your presence there is fullness of joy,**

 **in our right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

**Basic Theme: *We recount the Easter story year after year to remind ourselves not only of core doctrinal beliefs, but to renew our passion for the one sent to save. The weeks following Easter Sunday should be a time for renewed action and living out the faith to which we have been called.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): We can only partially empathize with the challenges and joys experienced by Jesus’ original disciples. They surrendered their lives to him in order to learn and live as his followers, yet in fear and disappointment they hid as their savior was crucified. We can only imagine the elation when he reappears, fulfilling prophesy and challenging them to bear witness, to make disciples through the power of the Holy Spirit. As followers of Christ, we receive the same challenge and are reminded of it every year when we celebrate the resurrection. Church, will we accept the challenge?**

**So What? What is your response to Easter Sunday? Is your hope renewed, your passion restored? Will personally accept the challenge that the resurrected Christ gives to each of us: to “go and make disciples of all the nations”? What do you need from your church to help you accept and succeed at the challenge?**