**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, February 11, 2018 – Holy Communion**

**Sermon Title: Worship 101: Tithe, Offering, Penance, Sacrifice, Communion and Other Churchy Words I Don’t Understand**

**Scripture: Matthew 6:33-34 (NIV)** 33But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

**Romans 2:1-11 (NIV)** 1 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. 2Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. 3So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? 4Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? 5But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” 7To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 11For God does not show favoritism.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

Leader: From the rising of the sun to where it sets, God, the Lord God, speaks, calling out to the earth.

**People: From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines brightly.**

Leader: Our God is coming; he won’t keep quiet. A devouring fire is before him; a storm rages all around him.

**People: God calls out to the skies above and to the earth in order to judge his people:**

Leader: “Bring my faithful to me, those who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.” The skies proclaim his righteousness because God himself is the judge.

**People: Thanks be to God for his grace and mercy.**

**Basic Theme:** **The Christian faith is full of many “churchy” words that mean much to those on the inside. However, to those on the outside, many of these terms are meaningless and any only seem to alienate those whom the church seeks to reach. We claim we have good news to share, but sometimes, our message only appears to contain judgment and condemnation.**

**Sermon Snapshot:Perhaps you’ve been around the church for quite some time and you still feel like an outsider when “churchy” words are used. Maybe you just nod your head in agreement and pretend to know the basis of the conversation when in actuality, your feel clueless and confused. The Gospel of Jesus is intended to convey the love of God, which pulls us into a relationship rather than pushes us away. The Gospel is all-inclusive and is never exclusive. However, the Gospel contains both grace and truth.**

**So What? Do you ever feel like an outsider in the church? Do you only hear a message of truth which seems to be judgmental and condemning? Or, perhaps you only cling to the grace of God while the truth of God goes in one ear and out the other? Perhaps it’s time to embrace both as you begin as meaningful relationship with God?**