**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, February 18, 2018 – The First Sunday of Lent**

**Sermon Title: I Am: I Am the Resurrection and the Life**

**Scripture: Exodus 3:14-15 (NIV)** 14God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” 15God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

**John 11:17-27 (NIV)** 17On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” 23Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” 25Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

**Revelation 1:8 (NIV)** 8“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) *faithandworship,com***

**Lord, grant us simplicity of faith
and a generosity of service
that gives without counting cost.
A life overflowing with Grace
poured out from the One
who gave everything,
that we might show
the power of love
to a broken world,
and share the truth
from a living Word.
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,
and a yearning to share it.**

**Basic Theme:** **Lent is “season” in our faith that leads us to Easter. The purpose of Lent is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, Christian growth, penitence, conversion, and simplicity. Lent, which comes from the Teutonic (Germanic) word for springtime, can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to him. Lent is a time to acknowledge who God is and who we are in Jesus Christ. The “I Am” is our reason for being.**

**Sermon Snapshot:When Jesus Christ said to Martha that he was the resurrection and the life, he wasn’t merely making a passing statement about his ability to raise Lazarus from the dead. He was proclaiming that he is God over both life and death, and through faith in him, death is powerless and eternal life is possible.**

**So What? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life - the Messiah, the Son of God? What will it take for you to begin living as if God has raised you to new life?**