**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, March 25, 2018 – Palm Sunday**

**Sermon Title: I Am: I Am the Way, the Truth 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 14:6 (NIV)** 6Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**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:Jesus proclamation that, “I am the way, the truth and life” was a response to the disciples’ questions about him leaving and who would they now follow on their quest to meet God. If there was any question about multiple paths leading one to God, Jesus dispels those doubts with his statement, “No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus is the only way. The only truth is Jesus. Neither abundant life now nor eternal life in the future are not possible without Jesus.**

**So What? Have you been wandering around aimlessly seeking God on your quest for truth? What will it take for you to believe that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life?**