**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, April 1, 2018 – Easter**

**Sermon Title: I Am: I Am Alive**

**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 20:1-18 (NIV)** 1Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. 2So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” 3So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. 8Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. 11Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” 14At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 15He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” 16Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). 17Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 18Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

**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) *Charles Wesley***

Leader: "Christ the Lord is risen to-day,"
Sons of men and angels say.

**People: Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.**

Leader: He is risen.

**People: He is risen indeed.**

**Basic Theme & Sermon Snapshot:** **On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the single, most important event in the history of humanity. Without the resurrection, all other claims made by Jesus and all arguments about his divinity fall apart. Without the resurrection, there is no Christianity. On this day, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and came out of the tomb to essentially exclaim, “I am alive!” The resurrection proved once and for all that death was not a final judgment, but rather only a temporary state. To disprove the resurrection, the world need only produce the lifeless, dry bones of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus called Mary by name and Jesus calls each one of us by name. If we listen to his voice, just like Mary, our eyes will be opened and we will see him for who he truly is: the resurrected son of the living God, a savior who is alive and the Messiah who offers us eternal life.**

**So What? Do you believe the truth of the resurrection or are you struggling to make the leap of faith from the possible to the impossible? What will it take for you to believe that Jesus Christ is the resurrected son of the living God? What will it take for you to embrace the one who conquered death and receive abundant life now and eternal life in the future?**