**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Susan Carey***

**Date: Sunday, April 22, 2018**

**Sermon Title: Series: Who Am I?**

**I Am Known**

**Scripture: Psalm 139 *(New International Version)***

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| **1**You have searched me, Lord,    and you know me.**2**You know when I sit and when I rise;    you perceive my thoughts from afar.**3**You discern my going out and my lying down;    you are familiar with all my ways.**4**Before a word is on my tongue    you, Lord, know it completely.**5**You hem me in behind and before,    and you lay your hand upon me.**6**Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,    too lofty for me to attain.**7**Where can I go from your Spirit?    Where can I flee from your presence?**8**If I go up to the heavens, you are there;    if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**9**If I rise on the wings of the dawn,    if I settle on the far side of the sea,**10**even there your hand will guide me,    your right hand will hold me fast.**11**If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me    and the light become night around me,”**12**even the darkness will not be dark to you;    the night will shine like the day,    for darkness is as light to you.**13**For you created my inmost being;    you knit me together in my mother’s womb.**14**I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; |     your works are wonderful,    I know that full well.**15**My frame was not hidden from you    when I was made in the secret place,    when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.**16**Your eyes saw my unformed body;    all the days ordained for me were written in your book    before one of them came to be.**17**How precious to me are your thoughts,**[[a](https://www.biblica.com/bible/niv/psalm/139/%22%20%5Cl%20%22footnote-16257a%22%20%5Co%20%22Footnote%20a)]** God!    How vast is the sum of them!**18**Were I to count them,    they would outnumber the grains of sand—    when I awake, I am still with you.**19**If only you, God, would slay the wicked!    Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!**20**They speak of you with evil intent;    your adversaries misuse your name.**21**Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord,    and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?**22**I have nothing but hatred for them;    I count them my enemies.**23**Search me, God, and know my heart;    test me and know my anxious thoughts.**24**See if there is any offensive way in me,    and lead me in the way everlasting. |

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

Leader: Our God is a God of power and strength!

**People: God has created each of us** **with tender care.**

Leader: Our God is a God of majesty and awe!

**People: God walks with each of us** **every step of the way.**

Leader: Our God is a God of glory and wonder!

**People: God loves each of us** **with tenderness and passion.**

Leader: Our God calls us each by name.

**All: We are known, loved, and made whole by our God who calls each of us to unite in worship together!**

**Basic Theme: *Who am I? We ask this question during different stages and seasons of life and***

***the answer likely changes each time we ask. As children, we develop our identity by what we are told from trusted adults. As teenagers, our peers and talents often define our identity. Later in life, jobs, marital status, and parenthood define who we are. These definitions shape our attitudes and behaviors. However, our true identity lies in the Word of God, and when we understand and embrace who God says are, we live in true freedom.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Feeling misunderstood is not just the plight of teenage angst. In fact, most of us at one time or another have felt alone, lost in the crowd, or unheard, even in the midst of people we love. Unfortunately, we often allow our human relationships to define our value, mistaking the imperfect love and fickle attention of broken people as equivalent to the love of our perfect God. Scripture, however, reveals an intimate picture of God’s knowledge and love for us…a knowledge and love that we cannot escape and is so incredible that we won’t want to.**

**So What? Do you feel known by God? How do you think your Creator sees you? Does He see your flaws and tsk with disappointment, or does He look at you with the tender eyes of a loving father? What do you need in order to embrace the love and tenderness of God that is inescapable?**