**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

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**Date: Sunday, November 15, 2015**

**Sermon Title: Keep the Change**

**Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21 *(New International Version)***

This is what the Lord says—
    he who made a way through the sea,
    a path through the mighty waters,
**17**who drew out the chariots and horses,
    the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
    extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
**18**“Forget the former things;
    do not dwell on the past.
**19**See, I am doing a new thing!
    Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
    and streams in the wasteland.
**20**The wild animals honor me,
    the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
    and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
**21**    the people I formed for myself
    that they may proclaim my praise.

**Revelation 21:1-7 *(New International Version)***

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21%3A1-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31055a)] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2**I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. **4**‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21%3A1-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-31058b)] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

**5**He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

**6**He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7**Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) – Based on Psalm 40**

Leader:O God, you called us by name to come,

 and we respond with delight and gladness.

**People: In joyful obedience, we come to worship our God.**Leader: Rising out of the depths of despair,

 we gratefully gather for worship.

**People: In joyful hope, we come to worship our loving God.**

Leader: Our God has given us a new song of praise to sing to our Awesome God!

**ALL: In joyful trust, we come to worship our God. Amen.**

**Basic Theme: *God structured the natural world by seasons, each with its own distinct purpose. Our personal lives and relationships model that structure: times of planting and growth, times of harvest and reaping, times of dormancy and rest.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): The holidays can bring out the best and the worst in families. We spend extended periods of time together with expectations of gratitude and joy, trying to ignore that family dynamics and life challenges may have hardened our hearts the rest of the year. But don't worry! We serve a God who is in the restoration business and a savior who knows how to heal.**

**So What? As you examine your relationships - with your family, with your spouse, with Jesus - what season are you in? Is it time for restoration? For healing? For renewal?**