**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, November 26, 2017 – Christ the King Sunday**

**Sermon Title: The Good King**

**Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23 (NIV)** 15For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, 16I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

**Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)** 31“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ 37“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ 41“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ 44“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ 45“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ 46“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

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

Leader: Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with Celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy!

**People: Know that the Lord is God—he made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture.**

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him! Bless his name!

**People: Because the Lord is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.**

**Basic Theme:Jesus Christ is King, Lord of all creation. Christ the King Sunday is a day designated to recognize that although this world has many kingdoms and many rulers, our Savior is sovereign and reigns over all.**

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Unlike most kings who long for power and wealth, our King longs for peace and offers grace and mercy. Jesus claimed to be the Good Shepherd who would gladly lay down his life for his sheep. It is true, Jesus does sit in the seat of judgment – but he is a righteous judge who bore our sins on himself. This King, however, does not force his subjects into submission. Our King humbly invites us to take part as co-heirs in his kingdom.**

**So What? Do you only hear the message of judgment and condemnation? Or, do you also hear the message of grace, forgiveness, and eternal reward? Will you allow Jesus to not only be your King, but also your good shepherd? Will you participate in the kingdom work of caring for the least of these?**