**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

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**Date: Sunday, January 28, 2018**

**Sermon Title: Worship 101: The Gathering Place**

**Scripture: Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV) 19**Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, **20**built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. **21**In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **22**And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

**1 Peter 2:4-9 (NIV) 4**As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— **5**you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6**For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him  will never be put to shame.” **7**Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected  has become the cornerstone,” **8**and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. **9**But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

**Call to Worship (from Psalm 22): (8:30 only)**

Leader: Come to us even now, O Lord of Life,
**People:** a**nd fill this place with your presence!**

Leader: We praise your name and rejoice in your love,
**People: we stand in utter amazement of who you are!**

Leader: Everyone who calls upon you will find fulfillment,
**People: They will rejoice forever, because you are God!**

Leader: Rejoice and give thanks!
**All: Halleluiah! Amen!**

**Basic Theme & Sermon Snapshot:With so many available avenues to worship and hear the word of God, is it still necessary to gather each Sunday? The answer is a resounding “Yes!” As believers in Christ, we are one body united to do the work he calls of the collective church. Gathering weekly for worship and instruction solidifies our unity, reminds us of our calling, and prepares us to take the word of God into our daily lives and community.**

**So What? What prevents you from attending Sunday worship on a regular basis? What might you be missing when other ‘priorities’ take precedence? If Sunday worship feels flat or pointless, how can you be more involved in calling on the Spirit’s presence? How might you encourage others who are not attending regularly?**