

Matt Wallace: Howdy Hillside. It's Matt Wallace here. And I just want to welcome you to Hillside in your Home. This is an unprecedented time. So we're going to be gathering together today, not on-site, but online. So we want to just thank you for giving this a shot. Whether you are on your own watching this or you've got your family in your living room, we want you to be able to stay connected to the family.

And that's the first thing I want to remind you about Hillside. We are a family. What it means to be part of the church isn't to be in a building. It's not to be in a specific place. To be a part of the church is to be the people of God who's called you to himself through Jesus Christ. And that's you, Hillside. We want to be for one another. Some of you are going to have a lot of needs in the days to come.

Some of you are first responders and this is a stressful and challenging time. We want you to know we're praying for you. So communicate how we can come alongside you at this time. Whatever it looks like for you, if your hours are being cut or your businesses are being impacted by this epidemic, we are here. Let us know how we can pray and serve.

The second big thing for us here is formation. We know the mission of Jesus is to make disciples. Here's

something that should encourage us in this season of life. The gospel always advances in adversity, hardship, and adversity that we don't want. But God uses it to improve us and grow us and mature us as a people. I have no doubt what God's purpose in this is to grow his disciples even if we're not in the same place at the same time.

Lastly, we want to be fruitful. Being fruitful means we're going to abide in Christ. Jesus said that. He's the vine and we're the branches, and if we remain in him, we will bear much fruit. God may be opening doors with your neighbors or those down the street or those who you interact with already or those in your workplace. You are empowered by God to love and serve those around you.

Also what we're going to do to be fruitful and we're starting something called Hillside Helps. It's on the homepage. There are two things you can do with that. Sign up to join one of the teams we're forming. We'll put together teams to deliver care packages and help those who may need meals. Or maybe just transportation or running errands for essentials. If you'd like to be involved, you can sign up for a team.

Also on that same page, you can let us know how you need help. We're all needy and we're all needed. It's okay to let us know you have a need. It will be a joy for us to serve you in this time. Those are the big things. We

want to be a family, be formed as disciples, and serve the people.

Let me talk now before the service starts about what this might look like for you watching, whether on your phone or tablet or on your TV screen. We are using a new platform that will allow us to be a little more interactive than we have been in the past. If this is your first time, you'll need to know these. But look at the screen, and you'll see on the bottom, something that says, "live prayer." Whether it's now or during the service or any time if you're participating in the service, you can click on that button and ask for prayer. We have our staff ready to respond. If you're watching through the week, you can respond as well.

The other thing you can do if you're watching live is you can do a chat. We've got people ready to respond to you. Click on the chat button. You can ask questions or let us know you're tuning in and tuning in from. We want to do everything we can in this time when we're isolated from each other in our homes to still be connected to one another.

The last thing I'll say, because this is week number 1 doing services as Hillside in the Home. It's awkward. Most of us are used to be here. But I want to call you to still be a people that participate in the gathering of

God's people. So when we sing, it's okay to jump off the couch. This is not Netflix. You're going to gather with the people of God. So get up on your feet and sing out loud. We just want to ask you to participate in the service. Whether reading, singing, praying together or getting down on your knees with Pastor Dave, we want to see you participate. With all that said, we're going to get rolling now. So let's jump into the service.

John: Hello, Hillside. Thank you for joining us. Let's sing. Lift up your voice.

♪ [worship.] There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do ♪

John: Wherever you are, our God is still sovereign. We're so glad you're joining us to worship wherever you are. Would you read Colossians 1:16 and 17 with me? Let's here this truth, speak it, and respond together.

[Reading from screen at 11:50]

Amen.

♪ [worship continues.] Our God is Greater by Chris Tomlin ♪

♪ [worship continues.] His Mercy is More by Matt Papa



Pastor Dave: And Father, we gather together in homes to say, thank you for your mercy. It is incredible. Our sins are indeed many. So thank you for the mercy that you've given us through your son, Jesus Christ. We believe your word. You say you are good and you do good. And we affirm that. We know that every good and perfect gift comes down from you. So we come to say, thank you for your good gifts. We want to look at those today. We want to appropriate those and so we pray for your grace to do that. Would you give us comfort in this time. Would you give us confidence that we, your body, might speak the word of God boldly in the midst of crisis. That you would use adversity again to advance the gospel. That during this time, in this nation, that you would use difficulties and trials and adversity to open our eyes to our deep need for you. Father, many of us have turned away from you and we've taken for granted the good gifts you've given. And when we're not grateful and we take things for granted, Father, our hearts turn away from you. And so we pray that you would use this trial for great revival in our own hearts for your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

22:42

Well, welcome, Hillside at Home. So glad that you're

joining us and you're letting us into your house. And even though now, for a while, we can't gather at the building, we're so grateful that God's grace is still abundant to His body. So we get to be the body of Christ. We've been telling you that for years. You are the church. This building is nothing. You are the church and we've been praying for you this week that the Lord would use you in your neighborhoods to advance the gospel through adversity and many people would hear about Jesus Christ crucified, buried and resurrected.

We have a perfect passage and in fact, if I were to pick a passage this week, I would have picked this one. Open your bible at home to Acts chapter 4. We'll start at verse 23 and go down through verse 31. I'll read it for you and then we'll pick it apart.

Luke writes, God says, [reading Acts 4:23-31.]

[Timestamp 25:10]

So now as we jump into the text, I just want to again, give a broad, big theological picture. If you read straight through the Bible, you're going to see this. It's undeniable and unavoidable. God is in control. In fact, Isaiah 46, he says that he's declared the end from the beginning. When Jesus describes himself, he says he's the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, the

first and the last, the one who is and was and is to come. God is in absolute control. We call it the sovereignty of God. He's over, in and through all things and he's working all things according to the council of his will.

The small theological picture is this and it's what we're experiencing even now. Sin brings chaos and confusion to communities, relationships and societies. Sin has gone off script and wants to do its own thing. Because of that, there's chaos, confusion and conflict in the world.

The Bible tells a beautiful story. An amazing story of how the creator God entered this creation in chaos to bring clarity, to rescue, to redeem, to reconcile so that he might redeem us and bring us back into relationship with himself.

Now what we're going to see today in Acts is simple. It's the same thing I've been telling you for weeks. Acts is the story of an unstoppable God. His good news always advances through adversity, not in spite of adversity.

And as he moves forward, here's what we're going to see. I want us to see five things today in this. God, in the midst of the kingdom of darkness has given his body good gifts. I'm going to say this again. He's given us really, really good gifts. He hasn't left us alone here. He's given us his Holy Spirit and he's surrounded us with good

gifts.

When you're not grateful for things, I can guarantee, you will take them for granted until they're gone. One of the best things about the trial we're walking through is, man, when we've taken things for granted and we're not grateful for them, we realize that they're gone when we don't have them anymore.

Right now, I'm preaching to an empty, largely an empty room. My heart realizes just the good gift of the body of Christ. You need to know that the team here at Hillside misses you. So even though this is going to be somewhat awkward, Hillside, I want you to know, I'm sick, twisted and weird and I know where you would have sat. And so I'm actually thinking about you.

I've thought about you this week. I know which row, which seat you sit in. I've been praying for you. So even as I preach, I want you to know that my heart and my mind thinks about you and that we love you. You're not alone. We're here with you.

So we're going to jump in and look at the first good gift. If you'll look at verse 23 with me, I want to show you one of the greatest gifts that God has given to us and you're part of that gift.

Look at verse 23 with me. I'll show you this. "So when they had been released." Let's start out here. The story is this. They had gotten arrested. How many of you have ever gotten arrested? Honestly. Just throw it out. Thanks, Bobby. Luke, we'll have to talk about that later. And at home and you want to raise your hand, you can. You'll have to tell your kids about it. You're probably sick and twisted like me.

They got released from lockup. Watch the first thing they did. This is a tough day. Look in your text at verse 16, 18, and 21. It had been a tough day for these guys. They got locked up. Peter and John. Then they got abused. They got commanded. They got threatened. So this is a tough day for them.

I don't know what you do when it's been a tough day. We all find something to do, because we have to deal with the difficulty of the day. For me, I run home and I crawl into bed, because I just like my bed. It's a Purple number 4, super soft. And that's where I find my happy spot. That and a box of white chocolate covered Oreos.

Watch where they went. "When they had been released, they went to their own companions, their own people and they reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them."

One of the greatest gifts that God has given us is the body of Christ. He's given us friends. He's given us family. He's given us companions to do life with. And it's interesting, because so many of us spend so much of our life avoiding community. I don't know if you've noticed that. But in America, we see community as a neat idea but not a necessity.

In fact, we spend most of our life trying to figure out how to do life alone. Oftentimes, even in the Christian community, we'll come to church, we'll do church, but we'll avoid getting in community because we're afraid to be known. We're afraid to be authentic and vulnerable.

It's very interesting, because what you're not grateful for, you'll take for granted until it's gone. And if you are a part of that crew and crowd that has just come and done large church but not been part of a group, you're going to experience it now more than ever. You're going to feel alone. And we want to let you know that you're not alone. We love you. We long to plug you in to that community. We long to be that community with you. Because it is an incredible, incredible gift that God has given to us.

Man, even at home, I'd like for you, right now to just look at family, your kids, your wife, your husband. You see? When things have gone well for a really long time, we

tend to take those closest to us for granted. We just do. We tend to take community for granted until we don't have them anymore.

This is what my brother's funeral taught me about community and being grateful and not taking things for granted. You see, I spent my life fighting with my brother and arguing with my brother. I spent my life hating my brother until that day I stood at his casket and realized that I had spent my life focused on things that didn't matter. Arguing about things that really didn't matter. Fighting, fist fighting, about things that really didn't matter.

You see, when you take something for granted and you're not grateful, you don't realize it oftentimes until it's gone. So I want you to look at your family and realize, man, that's one of the greatest gifts God has given to you. And I want you to look at them and say, I love you. I'm for you. I want you to realize where you've argued about foolish things and realize that community is one of the greatest gifts that God has given to you.

You see, I just call it the Team Lift Principle. Many of us try to do life alone. Many of us try to carry all the burdens of life alone. God didn't intend you to do this life alone. You were created from community, for community, to exist in community. And that's what the

church is. We're a family. We love each other. We're for each other.

And so, Peter and John, when they get out, the first thing they do is go report to their buddies. Their crew. Their companions. You see, this is what we're intended to do. Galatians 6:2 says, bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of God.

Hillside, one of the greatest trials we're facing with the coronavirus is it's going to quicken and awaken our hearts to the beauty and body of Christ. So that when we do get back together, we're going to celebrate. We're going to see what God has done to draw us even closer together through this incredible gift of community.

Now watch what comes next after community. Watch verse 24. Watch what they do. "And when they heard this," what happened to Peter and John, "they lifted their voices," it's corporate, "to God in one accord." Stop there. You see what they did? They got together and the first thing they do is to communicate with God. You see, the second great gift that God has given to us is prayer. It's just communication with God.

There's many things they could have done here. Put yourself in that scenario. There's many things that their companions and crew could have said to them. You see,

you may not know this or you may know this. You bring some ingredient to every conversation you have. You can make any conversation and every conversation better or you can make it bitter. Just depending on what you bring to it.

But you do bring something to every conversation. You see, this is the reality of existence. When you have anxiety, panic, fear, stress or worry, you will do something with that. Physiologically, neurologically you have to do something with that. You'll either carry it and transmit it to those around you or you'll transfer it to God. And that's what they do right here. They begin to communicate and they pray to God.

I'll ask you this. Man, what do you do with your anxiety, panic, fear, stress and worry? What do you bring to the conversations that you come to? For me, it's just my re-gifting policy. How many of you have ever re-gifted anything? Honestly. Thanks. Jen, never? OK.

It's pretty much all of us. You see, and oftentimes those are things you don't want and you don't know what to do with them. But you have to do something with them. Church is a weird place. I get stuff dropped off often. And people will tell me, this is really valuable and it's Aunt Addie's and it's super precious and I want you to have it. Super weird. So now I have to figure out what

to do with it. And it's bizarre because part of me just wants to throw it away. But then I feel guilty right? You can't just toss it. It's Aunt Addie's. So what do you do with it?

This is true of anxiety, panic, fear, stress or worry. It has to go somewhere. If you don't transfer it to God like they did here, you will transmit it to others. That's just fact. So let me encourage you. 1 Peter 5:7. Cast your anxieties on him. He's the infinite garbage disposal. Get rid of that. Give good gifts. Don't bring anxiety, panic, fear, stress and worry all over your home and your kids. Cast it onto him, because God knows what to do with it. He'll swallow it up and destroy it once and for all.

So the first good gift is community. The second good gift is communication and prayer. He says, come to me. Come cast all of your burdens. One's too much for you. Throw them all on me.

Now watch where he goes next. Watch when they pray, watch what they say. Verse 24, "when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, oh, Lord, Master, it is you who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them." So they just start quoting Psalm 146:6. They say, God, you made everything.

Here's the third good gift. You know, Jesus calls you to come rest? To be calm? Just to go to him and to rest in him. It doesn't matter what the crisis is. It doesn't matter what the adversity is. He says, come to me and rest.

You see, the third good gift is just to know that he is in control. That's where they go with this. They look at the Psalms and they say, hold on a minute. It's been a tough day. We got pinched. We got arrested. They're threatening us. They're being all kinds of rude and abusive to us. We've had a bad day. So they go to their community. They share it with the community. The community says, let's pray together and take this to God. Well, why does that matter?

Well, because God's in control. He literally made everything. And so he says, you can trust me therefore, with everything. Let me walk you through this very quick. Most of us spend most of our life seeking a false sense of control. Most of us spend most of our lives seeking a false sense of control. You don't believe me? It's why we all freak out and panic when the market drops 10,000 points. Why? Because we've found controlling cash. We thought, this will make us safe. This will give me security, significance and value.

If it's not cash, oftentimes it's comfort. And now we're

freaking out because we can't find what we want at the grocery store and our comfort is gone. Because the aisles are bare. So some of us find control in cash. Others in comfort. Some of us in Charmin toilet paper. Anybody? Can I get a "what-what?" We're freaking out because our bum-bums won't be clean.

If I can control the toilet paper market, then I've got control of my world and I can go on and on with this. We find false senses of control. And it's ridiculous. Truly, it's ludicrous. Well, if I can just stay healthy. Health is just the slowest way to die. You're still not controlling anything. It's not making anything better. So what do you do with that?

Well, they say, actually God is in control of everything because he made it. I'll soap box it for just a minute. Do you know how out of control you actually are? I just call it my Operation Principle. How many played Operation Board Game. Pulling out the different parts of this dude's body. Did they play that in Canada? Nailed it.

It was the first time I realized I've got over 70 internal organs. You know? When you're seven and you realize you've got stuff going on inside that you didn't even know, it's eye-opening. Then I realized I had five essential organs that I didn't even know were there. My brain, my heart, my lungs, my liver and my kidneys. If

those things quit, it's game over. Lights out.

But then I thought, I've never once thought about how to keep my heart beating. I've never once thought about how do I make sure when I go to sleep, my heart continues to beat. Then I began to realize, I'm totally out of control. I've got no control. I've never thought once about how to keep my liver keeping my blood clean or my kidneys keeping my body urinating or any of that.

I got stuck in a cul-de-sac. I never thought about these things. And when I did, I realized, I'm totally out of control and so are you. I don't even have -- my heart's going to beat 100,000 times today and I'm not going to tell it to beat once. How have I stayed alive this long? I'm not in control. And that's just on the micro level.

You want to go macro level. We're insane. We think we're in control. But the fact of the matter is, we live on a carbon ball that's spinning in space at 1,040 miles an hour. None of us can control that. We think we can. We think we can control the temperature of it. It's actual insanity. Because at the same time we're spinning at 1,040 mph, we're hurtling around a hydrogen helium bomb at about 67,000 mph. I'm out of control.

At the same time we're spinning and swirling and hurtling,

we're traveling through space about 483,000 mph. We're not in control. So what do you do? Go to the one who is in control. He created the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that's in them.

Psalm 121 says, "I look to the mountains. From where shall my help come from? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth." You see, he's so good to us. Psalm 127 says, he gives to us even in our sleep. He keeps our hearts beating. He keeps our kidneys and our lungs still functioning.

So go to him. Rest in him. He's good. He has a good plan for you. He cares for you more than you know. He's in control. You're not. I don't care how much toilet paper you have, you're not in control.

Watch what comes next. Watch this. You need to know on that one, I would just write down, "he's in control when everything seems out of control." Verse 25, 26, 27 and 28. This is just profound.

Here's another gift. He's the captain of our salvation. Just write down, "he gives us clarity that he's the captain." Watch as I go through this. Verse 25. "Who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David Your servant, said," Now they're going to quote Psalm 2. "Why did the gentiles rage and the peoples

devise futile things? The kinds of the earth (Psalm 2) took their stand and the rulers were gathered against the Lord and his Christ. For truly in this city they were gathered together in their Holy servant Jesus whom you both anointed Herod and Pontius Pilate along with . . . " My mind says we just skipped a verse.

It doesn't matter. I'll read it. And this is totally just like Sunday because this would have happened in a Sunday. So this is going to feel like Hillside at Home. Because this is how we roll.

Watch. "For truly," verse 27 in your bibles, "they were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus both whom you anointed both Herod and Pontius Pilate along with the gentiles and the nations and the people of Israel."

One of the best gifts that God gives to us is clarity about his sovereignty. I'm going to show you how this plays out. In this verse, as Luke records what they said in Psalm 2, oftentimes things look really, really, really bad in this world. And so right now, if you look on Drudge or Breitbart or wherever you get your news, it looks overwhelming. And it looks horrible and bad and it looks like everything is going down.

I would tell you it's no different than this. As they

record what happened to Jesus, it was literally all rulers and all nations against Jesus. You had Herod and his rule over Galilee. You had Pontius Pilate and all of Rome against Jesus. You had the Jews. It's literally everyone against Jesus.

And it looked horrible and bad. It looks like he's losing. It looks like the whole thing is coming down. It's all falling apart. The wheels are coming off this thing and there is no hope.

[45:39]

That's what I learned from Flight 1549. In fact, the call sign is Cactus 1549. I don't know if any of you know Flight 1549. Cactus 1549. What happened January 15? Anybody know Cactus 1549? What happened January 15, '09, shortly after takeoff, Cactus 1549 was struck by Canadian geese. Could've been terrorism. We don't know. And I've got a Canadian here. Total engine failure 5 minutes after. You had fire coming out. Zero thrust. You're over a major city. It's disastrous. This whole thing is going down. There is no hope for 155 people on that plane. Hopeless.

In fact, if you read through the book, Sulley's book on it, people began to panic and freak out. It looked so bad, they began to call their loved ones and say it's over. It's

hopeless. We're going to die. You had other people scribbling down notes that they'd put in their pocket hoping that their loved ones would find these notes saying, I love you. I just want you to know that I love you. There was panic and pandemonium.

The only thing was, they didn't realize who their captain was. You see, Sulley had trained his whole life for this. It's amazing. If I could pick one captain to be the captain, that day, on that plane, out of all pilots I would've picked him. You see, in his spare time, what he did is he ran a glider plane and knew how to glide as far as you can glide.

He was an emergency safety teacher and instructor and instructed on things like this and emergency landings. He was a fighter pilot. He knew exactly what to do, when to do it, and how to do it to save every single life. You see, what he did that day was profound. He knew he wasn't going to make it so he landed in the Hudson. They called it The Miracle on the Hudson. Cactus 1549. And on that day, all 155 people survived. It truly was an aviation miracle. It's still astounding how they did it. Because it looked like everyone was going to die. It looked like it was going to be a total loss that day.

Let me tell you, as they began to look at Psalm 2 and they began to look at what Jesus Christ went through, they

thought, man, it's all going down. It's a total loss. But then in verse 28, it says, they did whatever your hand and your purpose predestined to occur.

You see, the truth is, it matters who your captain is. In this world, we're going to have trial. In this world, we're going to have struggle. Paul said it best. Romans 8:22, all of creation groans under the weight of sin. The alarm has sounded. This world is going down. It's lost thrust. Every scientific area of study agrees on this. This thing doesn't last forever. This thing ends. Whether it's through pandemic, whether it's through asteroid, whether through global, they all agree, we all agree, it's lost thrust.

The question is, who is your captain? You see, what the scriptures make clear is God took evil and used it for good. And Jesus Christ, that day, won. And Jesus Christ took what was intended for evil and he's using it for good for the salvation of souls.

And Hebrews chapter 2 says, Jesus Christ, if you're in Christ, he's the captain of your salvation. It matters who your captain is. So I understand today if you're freaking out because of the pandemic. It might be because you're your own captain and you're trying to figure out how to land this thing. The difficulty is, you can't land it. This thing has lost thrust and it's going

down.

This is why in Acts chapter 4, last week, Pastor Matt nailed it. There is salvation in no other name. For there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.

So today, man, if you're freaking out, if you're losing your mind, I would encourage you, make Jesus your captain. What does it look like to rest in Christ, to submit to Christ, to surrender to Christ? He landed the plane perfectly at Calvary. That day when all the nations were gathered against him, the one who knew no sin became sin for us. He took all of our sin so that he might give us all of his righteousness.

The scriptures promise us that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And it promises us that we'll be safe in Him. He landed it. Greatest miracle ever. Jesus Christ will save everyone who has put their faith in him.

So greatest gift. Man, one of the greatest gifts he has given to us is we can surrender control to our captain. The captain of our salvation. His name is Jesus Christ.

Now watch what comes next. Verse 29, 30, and 31. He gives us confidence. Watch. Verse 29. "And now, Lord,

take note of their threats and grant that your bondservants may speak your word with all confidence while you extend your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of your holy servant, Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place where they were gathered together was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness."

You see, the gospel is always advanced through adversity, not in spite of adversity. The gospel is always advanced. This is just an historical statement. Whether it's Egypt, Syria, Babylonian, Persia, Mido-Persia, Greece, or Rome, the church of Jesus Christ has always advanced through adversity, not in spite of adversity.

Now this is interesting because what you're going to see here is one of the first prayer meetings. You're going to see what they prayed for. Look in your text. 29 and 30. You'll see what they prayed for. It's interesting because the whole nation is about to be against them. All the rulers are about to be against them. Everything looked like it was about to go south. They're already getting arrested. What would you pray for?

You see, we pray for things that give us security and significance, value, meaning, purpose, worth. We pray for things. We ask God for things that secure our identity.

Where we have our confidence. Where we find our peace and joy. Let me ask. What do you pray for?

See, this is amazing, because they noticed the threats. Look at verse 29. "Now Lord take note of their threats." Hey, God, we just want to make sure you notice that they're threatening us. We just want you to know, please take note that they're being super duper mean. They're kind of bullies, right? These guys are being bullies. So, Lord, take note of that and "grant that your bondservants may speak your word with confidence."

Hillside, every obstacle is an opportunity for gospel advancement. The gospel of Jesus Christ has always advanced through adversity, not in spite of adversity. You need to know the team here is praying that God would use this coronavirus to make the name, fame, and glory of Jesus great in America.

You see, it's not until people are faced with the reality of their mortality that they look to eternity. Until then, they're just living with creature comforts. It's our prayer, it's Hillside's prayer, that this obstacle will be an opportunity and a wide-open door to proclaim Christ crucified, buried, and resurrected. Because this whole thing, the world has lost thrust, it's going down and Jesus Christ has given us the message of eternal life. That he has defeated death. And we're the only people

on the face of the earth that can say with confidence, oh, death, where is your victory? Oh, death where is your sting. The sting of death is sin. The power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Lord, would you grant us the boldness, the confidence to speak your word with power. That's what they asked for and it's a brilliant prayer request. And then, how do we know that it happens? Well, when the Holy Spirit comes upon them, what do they do? They begin to speak the word with boldness. They begin to speak the word of God.

You see, our world has no idea what truth is. Our world doesn't even know what north, south, east -- they don't know what is morally true or historically true or theologically true. And here we are. We get to say, here's truth. May I speak the word of God with boldness to you? God is good and he does good and he created this world very good. Sin entered this world and broke everything and separated us from God. But God, being rich in mercy, loved us and sent his son, Jesus Christ, to live the life we could not live so that he could die the death he did not owe. We owed it. So that he can be buried and conquer the enemy that you and I couldn't conquer. The enemy of death. And then he rose from the dead historically and he now offers salvation by

grace through faith to all who would come and bow the knee to him.

Today, today, would you bow the knee to Jesus Christ? Would you confess that Jesus Christ is Lord? Hillside, to those of you have neighbors who don't know the truth, we've prayed that this obstacle would be an opportunity for gospel advancement. That the name and fame of Jesus Christ might be made much of through the coronavirus.

You see, the truth is, the darkness has to get dark. Because this is the kingdom of darkness. So things are going to get dark. But my Apple TV taught me something about this. How many of you guys got Apple TV? See, it's profound because two nights ago, my wife and I were watching it. We got ready for bed and turned off all the lights. I need it dark in order to sleep. Super duper dark.

Well, when we turned off the lights and we started trying to go to bed, I looked at Brooke and said, it's still light in here. I can see you. It's horrible. Where is this light coming from? I tell you what, it was so dark in that room that the Apple TV LED light lit up the whole room. You see, the darker the night, the brighter the light shines.

As things are darker and darker and darker, and people grow more hopeless, the brighter the light of the gospel shines through you. Through the individual and through us corporately.

So, Hillside, we want you to know that we love you. You're not alone. We want you to know that the gospel of Jesus Christ always spread through adversity, never in spite of adversity. We want you to know that he's given us an opportunity for gospel advancement. He's given us opportunity through this obstacle to make much of the name, fame, and glory of Jesus Christ.

And I pray that you might be able to tell your neighbor and friends. But not just tell your neighbor and friends but tell them that Jesus Christ is greater than the coronavirus. And I pray that it wouldn't just be words out of your mouth. That you wouldn't just flippantly say, Jesus Christ is greater than the coronavirus. But that people might see the gospel lived out through you. That in a world of panic, we might be a people of peace. That in a world of greed, we might be a people of gospel generosity. So that we might make the gospel audible as we speak it and preach it and visible as we live it out during these dark, difficult times.

Hillside, our prayer is that Jesus Christ and his good news might flow through us to a world that desperately

needs it.

Now we're going to pray and then we're going to give you an opportunity to respond with different ways to serve the community around us. Let's pray.

Father, God, thank you that you have been infinitely, eternally good to us. Thank you that you've met our every need through your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you that we have nothing to fear because you've defeated death. And now I ask that you would fill us, your body, Hillside Fellowship, that you would fill us with your Holy Spirit that we might speak the truth of your word with great boldness and great confidence to a world that's panicking and freaking out.

Father, would you allow us to be a people of peace in a world of panic? Would you allow this pandemic to lead to a profound revival where many people put their faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray you'd do a great work through us. Would you use us to love each other, to love one another, and to love our community? Father, I pray you'd open up doors of opportunity for gospel advancement through this adversity for your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Matt: Amen. Hillside, listen. Pastor Dave just said it. We want to call you to respond. When you open up the

word and you hear the voice of the Lord, it's not just that we're audibly hit. To hear the voice of the Lord is to always respond to His initiative. We love because he first loved us. He comes toward us in power and then we get to respond to that with humble hearts. So let me just walk through, real briefly, a few ways to respond. And then we're going to close in a song together.

But the first thing I'll say is if you're watching one of the services during our normal service times, there should be a little button right there on your screen that says, "live prayer." We would love to pray with you or for you. If you're watching at any other time, then just email, prayer@hillsidefellowship.org. We want to know how we can pray for you or serve you during this time. Please don't hesitate. We have people ready to respond.

We want to help you connect. One of the things that we're doing right now on the web is, it says, "Sunday Gathering Resources." If you're a parent and you still want to open up the Bible with your children and walk through the gospel project curriculum, all of that stuff is there.

If you're middle school or high school students, we have all the resources available on there for you.

Part of responding during this time is just not isolating

and hunkering down. But it's to reach out and continue to connect with the body. So we'll continue to put resources in front of you to do that.

The other thing is that we are going to be organizing what we're going to call Hillside Helps. We've got teams that will be organizing this week to respond to needs going on in the community. If you're one that is need, you also can communicate that to us. And we're going to do everything that we can to come alongside you and reach out with what God has given us to be a blessing to you. So that also is on our website. You can click on that to volunteer or communicate needs to us. Either way, whether we organize this or not, it was said at the beginning of the service. Hillside, you are the church. If you've got a neighbor or somebody that you normally see every week that you know you can reach out to, please don't hesitate to be the light that God's called us to be in this time.

Those are the ways we can respond. At least right now. Let's also respond in praise. I'm going to invite you even to stand, as corny as that sounds right now in your living room. But let's close in a song praising Jesus together.

♪ Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace) by Hillsong Worship
♪

John: Thank you for joining us this Sunday. God bless you. May you have a worshipful week. We'll do this next Sunday. God bless.

[End of service]