

Community United Methodist Church, Oakdale, Ca
First United Methodist Church, Riverbank, Ca

WORDS OF WELCOME: Pastor Jeff Holder

OPENING HYMN: *Humble Thyself*

CALL TO WORSHIP/PRAYER: (Responsively) Leader, Becky Williams

Leader: O God, in these troubled times, we so easily withdraw into loneliness.

All: By the mouth of the prophet you have said, "O comfort my people."

Leader: We will run to the wilderness, just to hear a word of hope.

All: Surely salvation is at hand for those who follow you.

Leader: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground.

All: Righteousness will look down from above.

Leader: May you renew our faith in this season.

All: Let us have faith in you whose path we prepare. Let us worship you who is to return. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (*Candle of Faith*)

Reader 1: Our lists are long, especially this year. We want to do things right, we want to be safe, but we want to be able to enjoy the season. We've got work to do to put right what has gone wrong, to heal what is broken, to mend the relationships, and to prepare for the company that will come.

Reader 2: *The prophet Isaiah reminded us that there is work to be done. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." When God comes in, there is healing, but we need to make the way and open the door into our lives. We light this candle today, in the faith that you will come.*

HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Leader

Leader: Into the midst of our fear, discomfort and pain, come. We can trust no one. In whom shall we have faith?

All: In the best of times, we are confident of ourselves. Our ways arise from our designs, as if we are the source of all reason. In times such as these, we are confounded. Show us again the strength and goodly

character that arises when we follow you faithfully. Lead now on, O Creator, we will trust in your promises. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Pastor: Our hope has been restored and our faith is renewed. You have forgiven our iniquities, and pardoned all of our sins. We are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST: Pastor Jeff Holder

Pastor: The heart of Christ is love. The love of Christ brings us much peace.

When we follow Christ, we cannot help but share these same amazing gifts with the world. Let us now virtually bid all of those with us today these same gifts as we together say:

All: May the peace and love of Christ be with each and every one of you.

SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS & PRAYER REQUESTS: Pastor

SILENT/ COMMUNITY & PASTORAL PRAYERS:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Leader

Mark 1:1-8 Pastor

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE: *Faith Is a Victory* Pastor Jeff Holder

OFFERTORY/DOXOLOGY: UMH #95

COMMUNION: *One Bread One Body*

CLOSING: *Put Your Hand in the Hand*

SENDING FORTH: Pastor Jeff Holder

May we take special care to hear the themes of this season. They are not randomly chosen. Just as we lit the candle of hope and welcomed it into advent, also let us examine the strength of our own faith, and let it shine. Faith is not our secret. Faith is the way that others will know who we are and why we love as we do. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. Go in peace.



Serving you today:



Liturgist:
Pastor:
Doug Kolsters
Jim Austin:
Ann Butler:
Glen Gorman:
Becky Officer
Judy Nikkel:
Ted and Dona Nagel

Becky Williams
Jeff Holder
Praise Team Director
PowerPoints/Praise Team
Praise Team
Praise Team
Alternate Praise Team
Bulletin Editing/Materials Printing
Advent Candle lighters

Small Group Online Study for both Riverbank and Oakdale:

Small group forming for second week of January. Please contact Becky Officer or Pastor Jeff.

If you would like to speak with us, if you desire prayer, if you would like to become a member of this church, if you would like to be baptized, or for any other purpose, please find our website and my contact information below: vjholder@att.net 209-840-7939 <https://cumcoakdale.org> or <https://fumcriverbank.org>

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<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2020>
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*United Methodist Churches of
Oakdale and Riverbank,
Online Worship*



*“The Hope of Things to Come”
Dec 6th, 2020 - 2nd Sunday of Advent
Community United Methodist Church, Oakdale
First United Methodist Church, Riverbank*