

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

WORDS OF WELCOME: Pastor Jeff Holder

OPENING HYMN: *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER: Leader, Becky Williams

Leader: May our souls magnify the Lord!

All: Let our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

Leader: God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

All: God has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly.

Leader: God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

All: We praise the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

Reader 1: We live on the brink every day, near the threshold between this world and the next one. We live and move between the ordinary and divine, the mundane and the mystery. We forget to look up and see the angels in our living room. The love we give and live is a sign of eternity, God with us. Company is coming.

Reader 2: *Luke tells us that God's favor came to an ordinary girl. It might have been you, your daughter; the girl down the street or your grandchild. The messenger of God came and greeted her saying, "The Lord is with you." What a gift and a promise: Emmanuel, God is with us.*

Reader 1: We light these candles with peace in our hearts for the promise of the nearness of God. Even when we forget to listen, to lean into that presence, God is as close as our own breath. This, in a confused and confusing world, is a peace that passes all understanding. It is the peace that knows that company is coming.

Reader 2: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel.*

CANDLE LIGHTING: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Leader

Leader: Merciful creator, though we follow the Advent season and wait for the one who will come, the season becomes hidden by the lights, the cards, the shopping, the wrapping, and all of our busyness.

All: Forgive us when we fail to focus on your greatest gift of love, or when we fail to recognize you are present here with us now. O Lord, connect us with your words uttered in human voice, from tent and

tabernacle, full of fear and mercy. Connect us to your words just as the angel spoke to Mary. May we always keep our minds on you, Eternal Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Pastor

The Creator, through Christ, is with us. Nothing is impossible with God. We are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Pastor: Emmanuel, God with us, taught us that the love of God and love of neighbor were of the very highest importance. Let us now virtually share the peace and love of Christ with one another as we say together:

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: 2 Samuel 7:8-11, 16 Luke 1:26-38 Leader Pastor

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

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE HYMN: *Mother Mary Gentle Woman*

MESSAGE: *Living in the Divine Mystery* Pastor Jeff

OFFERTORY/DOXOLOGY: UMH #95

CLOSING: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

SENDING FORTH:

Pastor: May the Creator strengthen you according to the gospel. May the proclamation of Jesus Christ dwell in your hearts and in your lives. May you learn to make things ready in this space of mystery in a time of new possibilities. Anything is possible through God. May the power of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forevermore. Amen. Go in peace.



Serving you today:



Liturgist:
Pastor:
Doug Kolsters
Jim Austin:
Ann Butler:
Glen Gorman:
Becky Officer
Judy Nikkel:
Judy Bradley:

Becky Williams
Jeff Holder
Praise Team Director
PowerPoints/Praise Team
Praise Team
Praise Team
Alternate Praise Team
Bulletin Editing/Materials Printing
Mailing/Distribution

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 these churches, 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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 Community United Methodist Church Oakdale, 1480 Poplar St, Oakdale, CA 95361

Prayers and Litanies: Abingdon Worship Annual 2017 & 2020, Jeff Holder 2020. May be used with permission.
 Advent Liturgy: Discipleship Ministries, United Methodist Church, adapted Jeff Holder,
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturgy-2020>
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*United Methodist Churches of
 Oakdale and Riverbank,
 Online Worship*



*“Living in the Divine Mystery”
 Dec 20th, 2020 - 4th Sunday of Advent
 Community United Methodist Church, Oakdale
 First United Methodist Church, Riverbank*