

Community United Methodist Church
First United Methodist Church

WORDS OF WELCOME: Pastor Jeff Holder

OPENING HYMN: *O Come All Ye Faithful (v. 1 & 3)* UMH #234

OPENING PRAYER: *(read responsively)* Becky Williams

Holy One, you have appeared in the flesh, bringing redemption to all, your glory is made known in this newborn child, this living, blessed hope. Tonight, we sing a new song - a song of justice, righteousness, and endless peace. Gift of God, beautiful Christ-child, we welcome you! Let love be born anew in our hearts on this joyous night. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Connor: Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

Rebekah: Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth – regardless of circumstances – reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God.

Kiera: On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know . . . He is born and nothing will ever be the same!
(Light all candles)

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Pastor: Christ brought to the world the peace and love for which we gather tonight. Let us share the gift we celebrate. Let us all who hear now join together:

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

THE STORY:

Becky Williams: Luke 2:1-5

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth

in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1 & 3)* UMH # 230

Pastor: Luke 2:6-7

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN: *Away in a Manger (v 1,2)* UMH #217

Judy Nikkel: Luke 2:8-12

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

HYMN: *What Child Is This (v. 1 & 3)* UMH #219

Becky Williams: Luke 2:13-16

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[a] praising God and saying,¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

HYMN: *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (v. 1,3)* UMH #240

Judy Nikkel: Luke 2:17-20

¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN: *The First Noel (v. 1,4)* UMH #245

SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7* Pastor Jeff

MESSAGE: *“Finding the Light”* Pastor Jeff

HYMN: *Joy to the World (v. 1,2,4)* UMH #246

SHARE THE LIGHT: *Silent Night (v. 1,2,3,4)* UMH #239

SENDING FORTH/CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor Jeff



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, Narration

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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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*



“Finding the Light”

Dec 24th, 2020 - 4th Christmas Eve

Community United Methodist Church, Oakdale

First United Methodist Church, Riverbank