

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

WORDS OF WELCOME: Pastor Jeff Holder

OPENING HYMN: *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER (*read responsively.*) Becky Williams

Leader: Pay attention! There's something happening here. God is speaking.
Christ is coming. God is with us even now. In the time to come, before
the final coming of Christ in glory, there will be mighty signs.

All: They will be seen in the heavens and on the earth.

Leader: They will remind us of God's eternal presence and power.

All: We will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye.

Leader: Therefore, let our hearts be glad and our souls rejoice, as we renew our
bodies and minds to do God's work up and to the final moment.

**All: God has reached out to us in love and mercy. May we extend that
love and mercy to all who are in need. AMEN.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Margie White, Judy Bradley

Reader 1: O God, we light the first candle of Advent.

*Reader 2: We kindle it with hope. We long for you to come to our world, to break
through and reign with compassion, justice, and peace.*

*Reader 1: The prophet Isaiah also cried to God to tear open heaven and come down.
He called God's people to do right. Isaiah called them to be refashioned
like clay, by God, the potter. This Advent, we call out to God.*

*Reader 2: Mighty God, creator of the world, break through all that keeps us from
you. We ask for your mercy and reform us in your image. This Advent,
visit us with your justice, love, and peace. Amen.*

ADVENT HYMN: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* UMH 211, (v. 1 & 2)

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Leader: On our journey, when we look up to see it is dark ahead, when we
struggle to find the path, we feel as if we are alone.

**All: When we sin and fall short of the people you would have us be, don't
hide your loving presence from us. Speak to us anew, that we may**

**hear your voice and notice your presence in our lives. Shine upon us
with your grace and mercy, that we may return to you and return to
love. In your mercy and grace we pray. AMEN.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: Pastor

In Christ, we are made new and rich in every grace needed to restore us and make us
whole. Praise God for this glorious gift! – In Christ, we are forgiven and made
blameless before God.

All: Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:

Pastor: As the forgiveness of Christ clears our path forward, we are able to
become a peaceful and loving people, having put on Christ. In this season
and every season, may we pray this peace and love be upon all peoples.
May we bless each other virtually now as we pass the peace of. Let us
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: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Leader
Mark 13: 24-37 Pastor

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

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

MESSAGE: *"Watch Out, Stay Alert!"* Pastor Jeff

OFFERTORY/DOXOLOGY: UMH #95

CLOSING: *They'll Know We Are Christian*

SENDING FORTH: Pastor Jeff Holder

Stay awake, for God is coming. Prepare your heart, for God is near. In the darkness, a
candle of hope burns brightly. In the quiet, God speaks to us. Grace and peace to you,
from our Creator, and from our Lord, Jesus Christ. Remain aware and awake, go in joy,
and go in peace.



Serving you today:



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

Becky Williams
Jeff Holder
Praise Team Director
PowerPoints/Praise Team
Praise Team
Praise Team
Alternate Praise Team
Bulletin Editing/Materials Printing
Alternate Praise Team
Distribution, Advent Liturgy
Advent Liturgy

Small Group Online Study for both Riverbank and Oakdale:

Small Group Meetings are currently on hiatus. Watch here for a start-up date.

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

Prayers and Litanies: Abingdon Worship Annual, 2017, 2020. Jeff Holder, 2020.
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*United Methodist Churches of
 Oakdale and Riverbank, Ca
 Online Worship*



“The Hope of Things to Come”
Nov 29, 2020 - 1st Sunday of Advent
Community United Methodist Church, Oakdale
First United Methodist Church, Riverbank