

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

**WORDS OF WELCOME:** Pastor Jeff Holder

**OPENING HYMN:** *You Are My All in All*

**CALL TO WORSHIP/OPENING PRAYER** Becky Williams, Leader

Leader: God of justice, God of joy, we join together in you this morning,

**All: proclaiming the good news of your presence with us.**

Leader: Where we see oppression or hatred,

**All: we will proclaim your love that frees us for joyful obedience.**

Leader: Where we find the depths of sorrow,

**All: we will sing praises of your love that heals.**

Leader: And where we find fear, anger, doubt or confusion,

**All: we will shine the light of Jesus Christ, your incarnate love, in whose name we pray. AMEN.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:**

**Reader 1:** We want everything to look nice: the decorations, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness, and bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate to lift our hearts and because company is coming.

**Reader 2:** *The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, "God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.*

**Reader 1:** We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season, not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

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

**HYMN:** *Joy to The World*

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** Leader

Leader: O, Merciful Creator, although we see injustice, we often prefer that someone else take action. Although we want change, we don't want to speak too loudly. Though we want to celebrate the coming of Christ, we wish it would not take up so much time.

**All:** Forgive our reluctance to enter into the radical good news of your incarnation. Heal our pride, and our acceptance of the status quo. Free us from the bonds of sorrow, and turn our tears into prayers of thanksgiving. Free us and transform our lives into a garden where justice and joy grow and bloom in abundance. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:** Pastor

The God of peace sanctifies you entirely, keeping your spirit, soul and body blameless at the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The joyful news is, the one who calls you is ever faithful!

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:** Pastor Jeff Holder

As we live into God's vision of justice, joy and peace for all the world, we are mindful that it is only through the love of Jesus that we may approach this task. May we share this joy, peace and love virtually this morning as we say together:

**All: May the joy, 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 Thessalonians 5:16-24** Leader

**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11** Pastor

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE:** *How Great Thou Art*

**MESSAGE:** *"The Lord Has Anointed Me"* Pastor Jeff Holder

**OFFERTORY/DOXOLOGY:** UMH #95

**CLOSING:** *10,000 Reasons*

**SENDING FORTH:** Pastor

Go forth, and remember, greatly rejoice in the Creator. May your whole being offer praise to God. The Creator has clothed you with garments of salvation, and has covered you with the robe of righteousness. Heed then the call, for God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations. Remember that our role is in this work. Rejoice and 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 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](mailto:vjholder@att.net)  
209-840-7939 <https://cumcoakdale.org> or <https://fumcriverbank.org>

First United Methodist Church Riverbank, PO Box 1091, Riverbank, CA 95367  
Community United Methodist Church Oakdale, 1480 Poplar St, Oakdale, CA 95361

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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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*Pastor Jeff Holder*  
*[vjholder@att.net](mailto:vjholder@att.net) cell phone 209-840-7939*



*United Methodist Churches of  
Oakdale and Riverbank,  
Online Worship*



*“The Lord has Anointed Me”*  
*Dec 13th, 2020 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
*Community United Methodist Church, Oakdale*  
*First United Methodist Church, Riverbank*