

*Community United Methodist Church*  
*First United Methodist Church*

**WORDS OF WELCOME:**

Pastor Jeff Holder

**OPENING HYMN:**

*Down to the River to Pray*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

*(read responsively)*

Leader – Becky Williams

Leader: We have great joy in Christ our Lord who calls and heals us.

**All: For a while, we bemoaned our sufferings,**

Leader: yet, we are reminded that suffering produces endurance.

**All: Endurance produces character.**

Leader: Character produces hope.

**All: And hope does not disappoint us.**

Leader: We follow Christ our Lord, who takes us from suffering to great hope.

**All: Let us Praise the Lord! AMEN.**

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Leader

**All: God of Creation, Jesus Redeemer, Holy Spirit who guides and sustains us, hear our prayers this day. We know the many ways in which we have failed to do the tasks which you have set before us. We regularly chose our comfort over service to you. Although we are made in your image, we often attempt to shape you around our own image. We shrink from the opportunities you give to us. Forgive us for our many failings. Put our feet on the pathways of service, offering justice and peace to all people. Heal us, O gracious One, for we ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. AMEN.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Pastor: Arise. Let us sin no more. Through the perfection of our baptism, we are

called by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit into a life of service. We are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST:**

Pastor: God surprises us with gifts of power and blessings when we least expect it. Let us virtually share blessings, as we extend the peace and love of Christ to all who worship together with us 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:**

Romans 5:1-11

Leader

Mark 1:4-11

Pastor

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE HYMN:**

*You Who Are Thirsty*

**MESSAGE:**

*“The Love of God”*

Jim Austin

**OFFERTORY:**

**DOXOLOGY:**

UMH #95

**CLOSING:**

*Pass It On*

UMH #572

**SENDING FORTH:**

Pastor

Go forth knowing that when suffering comes, the Lord is with us in ways we cannot fully understand. The Lord will bless you with peace and comfort enough to move forward, and always there is the promise of eternal life.  
Go in peace, for God is with you.



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*  
*Sermon, 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. **PLEASE CONTACT US THIS WEEK**

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:

<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

Prayers and Litanies: Abingdon Worship Annual 2018 & 2021, Jeff Holder 2021. May be used with permission.  
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*United Methodist Churches of Oakdale  
 and Riverbank, Online Worship*



*The Love of God*  
*Baptism of the Lord Sunday*  
*January 10, 2021*

*Pastor Jeff Holder / Sermon - Jim Austin*