

Shepherd of the Mountains

January 2021



Photo by Meg Daly

Tiny Desk Worship

No regular in-person indoor worship at SMLC
as we take COVID-19 precautions.

Email us to receive weekly worship resources at home
and instructions for our “Tiny Desk Worship” series!

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307-733-4382

sotmlcjackson@gmail.com
www.shepherdofthemountainsjh.org



Light

Dear Shepherd of the Mountains,

If at Christmas we celebrate *the light of all people ... the light [that] shines in the darkness and is not overcome* (a la John 1:4-5), that same dawn stretches into Epiphany. We have more time to ponder what the light reveals and where it bids us to explore. And light imparts energy – gently encouraging us for each day's work.

As I preached on Christmas Day, I am comforted that this light *dawns* on the weary world. We don't have to make sure we have the cords plugged in, or that we have matches to strike, in order to receive it. We don't have to break ourselves like glow sticks to generate this light. It comes to us, pure gift.

When I catch a sunrise, it often pauses me – filling me with wonder and hope. And then, that same light gets me going – bidding me to get the coffee on, to take the dog out, to live. That imagery is changing how I usually think about Epiphany. Rather than being another AHA! moment, another dawn, I think about light growing, a sunrise spreading and stretching into day. A slow infusion of energy, rather than jolt. After the year we've had, I'm drawn to less jolts, to an easing into whatever comes next.

And yet, there's no fear. As the morning light fills and then moves me, from the pause into action, the love of God revealed at Christmas now coaxes my eyes to open wider, to (in the language of one of my new favorite hymns) see all people's dignity, to see God's day of justice coming. My hands tingle with quiet energy to be a server at the feast of plenty.

Dear church, I don't know what this year holds. But may this Epiphany gently strengthen our awareness of light, of God-with-us, changing how we see and *be* in our world.

God's peace,
Pastor Inger

Contact Information

Pastor Inger Hanson

Email:

pastor.inger@
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(preferred for
non-critical
communication)

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(307) 733-4382

Cell Phone:

(307) 248-0438

Office Hours

by appointment
Tuesdays,
Wednesdays
or Thursdays

Call or Message
during

Online Office Hours

Wednesday
8–10 am

Days Off

Mondays &
Saturdays

EVERY WEEK *staying connected even as we physically stay apart*

SUNDAY



On Sunday mornings, check for emails from Pastor Inger with the announcements, bulletin, and links for **“Tiny Desk Worship”** (YouTube and Facebook).

Sign up to assist or read via our “Sign Up Genius” volunteer system (email Tanya Shedd (thobbs6@hotmail.com) for more details). The many voices of Christ’s body make each service special.



Hole Food Rescue - On Sunday mornings, volunteers pick up bread and baked goods from Persephone & Picnic to be distributed to those in need. Would you like to help? Talk to Robyn Lunsford (rlunsford@jorgeng.com)

TUESDAY



Bible & Breakfast, our weekly coed group that looks at the lectionary readings for the upcoming Sunday, is currently meeting via ZOOM **from 8 - 9 am (Jackson time)**. Grab a cup of coffee and your most Virginian-worthy breakfast, and join us! If you would like to attend, please email Pastor Inger at pastor.inger@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY



Online “Office” Hours On Wednesday mornings, Pastor Inger will be more intentionally online and lifting up prayer requests. Give a phone call or check in through Facebook messenger, email, or text.

THURSDAY



Communion Celebrations at the church from 12 - 2 pm. Pastor Inger is available for short, masked, socially distanced communions in the sanctuary. Attendees are still expected to be their own altar guild (bring your own bread and wine or juice). Note this is not a full worship service but a 10-15 minute celebration of communion. If folks arrive at similar times and are comfortable, multiple households can space themselves apart in the sanctuary, or wait in the Narthex until the group that has arrived first is finished.

EVENTS IN JANUARY

JANUARY
10



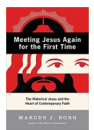
Church Council will meet at **11 am**. If you have something you would like to be on the agenda, please email a council member.

JANUARY
17



Tiny Desk Worship will feature a sermon from **Francisco Herrera** as the synod continues the Color Amazed Preaching Project (see details on page 5). **Watch the facebook premiere at 9 am**; then join us for a **ZOOM Fellowship at 10 am!**

JANUARY
19



Holy Horizons meets via zoom to discuss Marcus Borg’s *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*. Join us for fellowship at 6:00 pm and discussion from 6:30 to 7:00 pm.



JANUARY
21



Board Summaries and Nominations for Annual Report DUE! Please email in your 2020 board summaries and any photographs by Thursday, January 21st at the latest so that they can be included in the Annual Report

JANUARY
22



Quilting Fellowship! Please wear your mask and come help make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We will be working in the church beginning at 1 pm. Contact Carolyn Daily for more details.

JANUARY
24



In-person Worship If the county returns to a moderate “orange” risk level, we will offer services at 8am & 10am. Please be sure to wear your mask and social distance while at church. **Tiny Desk Worship** will be available later in the afternoon.

JANUARY
31



Annual Meeting on Zoom at 11 am. We will convene to review the past year, approve a stream-lined budget, and more!

LOOKING AHEAD

FEB
10 & 11



Blood Drive Volunteer with Jolene to welcome and check in donors, or sign up to give blood at www.vitalant.org, or call 1-877-827-4376

A Preview



At our December meeting, the Church Council passed a continuing resolution to have this year's Annual Congregational Meeting remotely. To do our part to reduce the risk of Covid19 to our parishioners and the wider community, the Annual Meeting will be held

Sunday, January 31st at 11 am via Zoom

A week before the meeting, we plan on emailing a pdf of the packet with the year's reports, financials, the proposed 2021 budget, and election materials to members. Hard copies will also be available for pick up at the church office (open Tuesdays & Thursday 8:30 am–3:30 pm).

What to expect:

- **Anyone who has a telephone may dial in to the meeting**
- **You can also use a computer (must have a functional microphone/webcam and an internet connection)**
- **All participants will be muted upon entry to reduce background noise**

At the beginning of the meeting, a roll will be taken to determine attendance. Please unmute yourself when called on, and name yourself and any other church members attending with the same device. When the roll is completed, the council president will lead the meeting following the usual agenda (it will be included at the front of the Annual Meeting packet). If you have a question or would like to contribute to a discussion, unmute yourself at the appropriate times.

In addition to congregational roles, Shepherd of the Mountains elects two lay members to send to our Synod Assembly. This year, the Northwest Intermountain Synod is also holding its assembly by zoom Friday–Sunday, April 23-25. The assembly combines synod business (budget, etc.) with joyful worship, learning, and fellowship. A brief training is available for people who have never attended a synod assembly before. If you are interested in serving as a voting member from SMLC at the synod assembly, please notify Pastor Inger or the church office by January 21st.



Attention Committee Chair People

If you are a chair of one of our committees please email in your 2020 board summaries and any photographs by **Thursday, January 21st** at the latest so that they can be included in the Annual Report for next week.

color amazed preaching project



In the words of a recent guest to the Northwest Intermountain Synod’s digital pulpit, Rev. Kara Skatrud Baylor, “the Color Amazed Preaching Project is about creating relationships virtually with leaders of color in the church body that we are all apart of. It is about learning more about the church as a whole, hearing how others interpret scripture, and what work God is putting in our hands...”

On these special Sundays, Tiny Desk Worship will premiere on YouTube and facebook at 9 am; join ZOOM Fellowship at 10 am for discussion and to catch up!

2nd Sunday after Epiphany, January 17. 2021



Francisco Herrera (he/him/mother) left a life in classical music (viola, orchestra conducting) to begin divinity studies at Chicago Theological Seminary (M.Div. 2012). Since beginning his PhD work at LSTC he has exercised his Christian agitation skills as a seminary instructor at LSTC and the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, co-founded the collective #decolonizeLutheranism, written for *1517 Media* and *Sojourners Magazine*, and is currently knee-deep in preparing a dissertation on intersectionality and church planting. Other than that, polymath and scatterbrain that he is, Francisco blogs at www.loveasrevolution.blogspot.com, tweets at @PolyglotEvangel, and raises money in the name of Jesus.



Christmas Fun



◀ Christopher Thompson masked up to enjoy the winter wonderland.
Rusty, Sascha and Lola Mizelle contributed special music for our December 20th Tiny Desk Worship. Sascha and Lola also lent their acting prowess to our pageant! ▶



Outdoor Christmas Eve Worship

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion
of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

It made Pastor Inger a little
verklemt to hear all your voices
respond "and also with you!"



Psalm 143

¹ Lord, hear my prayer,
and in your faithfulness
heed my supplications;
answer me in your righteousness.

² Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for in your sight
shall no one living be justified.

³ For my enemy has sought my life
and has crushed me to the ground
making me live in dark places
like those who are long dead.

⁴ My spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is desolate.

⁵ I remember the time past;
I ponder all your deeds;
I consider the works of your hands.

⁶ I spread out my hands to you;
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.

⁷ O Lord, make haste to answer me;
my spirit fails me;
do not hide your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.

⁸ Let me hear of your lovingkindness
in the morning,
for I put my trust in you;
show me the road that I must walk,
for I lift up my soul to you.

⁶ Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord,
for I flee to you for refuge.

⁷ Teach me to do what pleases you,
for you are my God;
let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

⁸ Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake;
for your righteousness' sake,
bring me out of trouble.

⁸ In your steadfast love,
destroy my enemies
and bring all my foes to naught,
for truly I am your servant.

A Passage

JUSTICE, PEACE

Light Dawns on a Weary World 726

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

Refrain
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

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A Prayer

O Lord, hear our prayers. Enter not into judgment on how badly
or how well we wear our masks or social distance—
on all the things we've done and all the things we've left undone.
A virus is a strange enemy, small and silent and yet so strong.
We live differently now. Our spirits sometimes faint within us.
We remember the time past; all your deeds, the work of your hands—
in scripture, in our own stories, in our surroundings.
And so we spread out our hands to you; our souls gasp.
Let us hear of your lovingkindness in the morning.
Let your light dawn on our weary world.
Teach us how to walk this road, too.

AMEN.

Giving Corner



Simply Giving allows members the ability to set up a direct deposit from your bank. It helps the church manage our finances and makes it easy for you to give on a regular basis. It requires a simple form that can be changed at anytime. If you have any questions or are interested in completing a form, please ask Church Administrator Nancy Parisee.

Online Giving
is simple and easy



Have you ever thought about giving your offering through online but don't know how?

You may sign up to give one time, weekly, monthly, or yearly .

You can give by text (307-207-3866), by credit or debit, or by online checking. Go to this link and you're on your way!

Thank you to those of you who have already donated; your gifts to the church are a blessing!



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as amazon.com.

The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the church! Please switch over to AmazonSmile and pick Shepherd of the Mountains (make sure it says Jackson, WY) as the charitable organization you support.

***Don't forget your offering!
Use online giving,
or mail your offering directly to the church:***

Shepherd of the Mountains
PO Box 3257
Jackson, WY 83001



Pledges For 2021

Thank you for your support!

We have received
23 pledges that total \$65,800

Thank you!



Church Office Hours
Tuesdays & Thursdays
8:30 am - 3 :30 pm

DECEMBER 2020

1st Simply Giving		\$ 1,675.00
Week of 6th	NA	\$ 3,155.00
Week of 13th	NA	\$ 975.00
15th Simply Giving		\$ 530.00
Week of 20th	NA	\$ 1,093.00
Week of 27th	NA	\$ 4,493.00
Total	NA	\$ 11,921.00

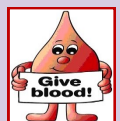
Note: Weekly budget needs: \$2,375.00

Blood Drive Dates for 2021

Your help is always needed in our blood drives.

To give blood please go to
<https://www.bloodhero.com>

February 10 & 11
April 14 & 15
June 16 & 17
August 18 & 19
October 20 & 21



December 15 & 16 (at Presbyterian Church)

Your donation matters!