

A Service of Installation for Rev. Guy S. Johnson



Rockville United Church

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)/United Church of Christ

Sunday, January 18, 2026 ~ 3:00 p.m.

Cover image: "Come Sunday" by Ernie Barnes

PRELUDE

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Marching to Zion

Chalice Hymnal, No. 707

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

*We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.*

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
but children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King
may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad.

(refrain)

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets
before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields
or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets.

(refrain)

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high

(refrain)

WORDS OF WELCOME & GREETING

Chris Frentrup, Council President

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

All: *And also with you.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Jennifer R. Knutsen

One: This is the day that God has made!

All: *Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

One: What does God require of us?

**All: *To act with justice, to love with tenderness,
and to walk with humility in God's presence.***

One: We gather in this spirit to worship the living God
who was and is and always shall be.

All: *Let us sing praise to God.*

* HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Chalice Hymnal, No. 86

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside. [Refrain]

PRAYER

Rev. Jennifer R. Knutsen

CHORAL RESPONSE

Seven-Fold Amen

Reid

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NRSV)

Rev. Joseph M. Stephenson, Sr.

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Philippians 3:7-14 (NRSV)

Rev. Dr. Kevin C. Norton

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them

as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

One: Listen to what the Spirit is teaching.

All: *Thanks be to God.*

ANTHEM

Total Praise

Smallwood

SERMON

“The Value Of A Friend ”

Dr. James J. Olson, OCC

SOLO

Come Sunday

Ellington

Anthony Compton, soloist

PRAYER

Rev. Chancey Martinez-Colon

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TEACHES (unison)

Our Loving God who art in heaven

hallowed be thy name

Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil

for thine is the kingdom

and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

*HYMN

Spirit
(Refrain)

Chalice Hymnal, No. 249

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep,
and over the eons you called to each thing,
“Awake from your slumbers and rise to your wings.” (refrain)

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you gifted your people with a law and a land,
when they were confounded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. (refrain)

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still,
and down in the city you called once again
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. (refrain)

You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes,
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise. (refrain)

LITURGY OF INSTALLATION

GREETING

UCC Potomac Association Representative

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

The Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

PCUSA Presbytery Representative

Rev. Nancy Clark

The National Capital Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) also greets to you in the name of Jesus Christ, as partners in our shared ministry together.

All: *We give you thanks, eternal God, for those who have run the race of faith before us and now surround us like a great cloud of witnesses. We thank you for those who pass the word of your love to each new generation. Let us also set aside everything that impedes us and threatens to entangle us. Let us look to Jesus, who leads us in our faith and reflects the presence of God in our midst.*

PRESENTATION

Local Church Representative

Chris Frentrup, Council President

Rockville United Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Rev. Guy S. Johnson as our pastor and teacher, and respectfully requests that the Potomac Association install him in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Association Representative

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

The Potomac Association has reviewed the request of Rockville United Church. We have prayerfully examined Guy, and we are pleased to install him as your associate pastor and teacher. Guy, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Association Representative

Rev. Holly Jackson

Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

EXHORTATION

Rev. Holly Jackson

Hear these words from the apostle Paul: We beg you, our siblings, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves. We urge you, our sister, warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all. Friends, see that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

COVENANT

Association Representative

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

Dear friends, Rockville United Church has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Rev. Guy S. Johnson to minister in this place as associate pastor and teacher, and that it now receives him as appointed by God for this ministry. The Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that he has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office. Guy, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that Rockville United Church has been led to call you as a pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Potomac Association?

Pastor

Rev. Guy S. Johnson

I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Association Representative

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

Members of Rockville United Church, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your associate pastor and teacher?

Rockville United Church:

We, the members of Rockville United Church, receive Rev. Guy Johnson as our associate pastor and teacher, promising to labor with him in the ministry of the gospel and to give him due honor and support. We gather with him and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Association Representative

Rev. Jason Carson Wilson

Members of the Potomac Association and the larger Central Atlantic Conference, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with Rockville United Church and its associate pastor and teacher?

Association and Conference Members:

We, the members of the Potomac Association and the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the associate pastor and teacher of Rockville United Church, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

Presbytery Representative

Rev. Nancy Clark

Members of the National Capital Presbytery, ecumenical and community partners, and all other friends present, will all of you, as you are able, rise and affirm your support of Rockville United Church and its associate pastor and teacher?

All: *We gather with you, Rockville United Church, and with your associate pastor and teacher, in celebration and support of our shared ministry together in Christ's name.*

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

Rev. Holly Jackson

Gracious God, we praise you that you have chosen servants in every age to lead your people. Pour out your Spirit upon your servant Guy. Grant him the gifts of your Spirit to build up the church, to strengthen the common life of your people, and to lead with compassion and vision. In the walk of faith and for the work of ministry, give him and all of us as we minister together, gladness and strength, hope and humor, humility and peace, and an abiding sense of your presence.

Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless, we pray, your servant Guy to whom the care of your people in this church is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit on him, on the people of the Rockville United Church, and on all the churches of the Central Atlantic Conference, the National Capital Presbytery, and all local and global ministry partners, that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage. Grant us the spirit and power of love and of a strong mind. Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, building up your church, and converting sinners to you. Guard us against the snares of temptation that we may be kept pure in heart, fervent in spirit, and valiant against evil. And at the last, by your grace, receive us in your eternal home, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ reigns in glory, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

DECLARATION

Association Representative

Rev. Holly Jackson

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Potomac Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as associate pastor and teacher of Rockville United Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

PRESENTATION OF GIFT

Representatives of RUC

SENDING MUSIC

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Sharón Clark, soloist

BENEDICTION

Rev. Guy S. Johnson

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Siyahamba

Chalice Hymnal, No. 442

We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God. (repeat)

We are marching, marching, We are marching, marching,
We are marching in the light of God. (repeat)

Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos',
Siyahamba, ekukanyen' kwenkos'. (repeat)

Siyahamba, hamba,
Siyahamba, hamba,
Siyahamba ekukanyen' kwenkos'. (repeat)

POSTLUDE

*The flowers are given in honor of Pastor Guy Johnson with love from
Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor, Rev. Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley and their families.*

*Rockville United Church is delighted that you all have come to celebrate with us.
Please join us for a reception in the Kaseman Hall following the service.*

INSTALLATION SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Dr. James J. Olson, Order of Corpus Christi
Rev. Holly Jackson, Associate Conference Minister, Central Atlantic Conference, UCC
Rev. Jason Carson Wilson, Moderator, Potomac Association,
Central Atlantic Conference, UCC
Rev. Chancey Martinez-Colon, Pastor, Grace UCC
Rev. Dr. Kevin C. Norton, The F.I.R.M.
Rev. Joseph M. Stephenson, Senior Pastor, Morningstar Baptist Church
Mr. Cameron Stephenson, Minister of Music, Isle of Patmos Baptist Church
Rev. Nancy Clark, Presbytery Representative, National Capital Presbytery, PCUSA
Sharón Clark, Soloist
Anthony Compton, Soloist
Rev. Jennifer R. Knutsen, Senior Pastor, Rockville United Church
Chris Frentrup, Council President, Rockville United Church
James Levy, Music Leader
RUC Choir
Lynne Brady, Camera Operator
John Junod, Digital Host
All worship participants on site and online

Rockville United Church Staff

Rev. Jennifer R. Knutsen, Senior Minister

Rev. Guy S. Johnson, Associate Pastor

Jim Levy, Music Director

Dalia Marciano, Administrative Coordinator

Lynne Brady, Communications Coordinator

Juan Mendez, Church Sexton

Stephen Cooper, Assistant Church Sexton

Rev. Nancy Clark, Parish Associate



Rockville United Church

355 Linthicum Street, Rockville, Maryland 20851

301-424-6733 ~ www.RockvilleUnitedChurch.org

Ecumenical † Just Peace † Open & Affirming † More Light

