

***Installation Service of  
Rev. Jessica Marie Ashcroft-Townsley  
May 21, 2022  
3pm***

Welcome

Rev. Guy S. Johnson

**Prelude:** To God Be The Glory  
(instrumental) Performed by Cammeron Williams

\*Call to Worship (*based on Psalm 139*) Rev. Guy S. Johnson

We've come to worship God,  
**who loved us before we were born and knows us better  
than we know ourselves.**

We've come to praise God,  
**Through whose wonderful works we are fearfully and  
wonderfully made.**

we've come to serve God,  
**Who called us into community, to be the church in the  
world.**

This is our God: whose love for all of us never ceases.

**Let's worship together!**

\*Prayer of Confession in Unison

*(written by Patricia Catellier)*

**Merciful God,**

**We have not obeyed your holy laws.**

**We have not respected your creation:**

**We have polluted the earth**

**And wasted the resources you have given us.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves:**

**We have ignored the sick, the poor, and the homeless**

**And abandoned the hungry.**

**We have not been peacemakers:**

**We have used our privileges for our own good**

**And ignored our enemies.**

**Forgive us, O God, and restore in us**

**Pure hearts and minds**

**So that our actions**

**Reflect your will, not ours.**

**All praise and glory to you, O Holy One,**

**Amen.**

**Assurance of Grace One:**

**The gracious love of the God who is with us,  
fills us with both the assurance of God's love  
and an awareness of our shortcomings, that we  
might pivot from the need for forgiveness to  
repair that which is broken within and around us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn:** Lead Me Guide Me –

WE PROCLAIM

Readings

Poem “A World That Is Good”

Written by: Fletcher D. Wideman

Read by: Rob Apgar

Epistle Romans 12:9-18

Rev. Guy S. Johnson

\*Gospel Matthew 22: 34-39

Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor

**Sermon** Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor

Special Music : Be Not Dismayed  
(God Will Take Care of You)

## LITURGY OF INSTALLATION

### Greeting

*Rob Apgar:*

The Catoctin 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.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin

which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

People: **Let us look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throng of God.**

### Presentation

*Robert Miller (Trinity Consistory President):*

Trinity United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Rev. Jessica M. Ashcroft-Townsley as its pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Catoctin Association install her in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

*Rob Apgar:*

The Catoctin Association has reviewed the request of Trinity United Church of Christ. We have prayerfully examined Rev. Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley, and are pleased to install her as your pastor and teacher.

Jessica, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office. 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 the 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 the ecumenical church.

## Exhortation

*Sheresa Simpson-Rice:*

*(addressing the congregation)*

Hear these words from the apostle Paul:

We beg you, our brothers and sisters, 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.

*(addressing the pastor)*

We urge you, our sister, warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

*(addressing all)*

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

*Rob Apgar:*

Dear Friends, Trinity United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley to minister in this place as pastor and teacher and that it now received her as appointed by God for this ministry. The Catoctin Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that she has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Jessica, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that Trinity United Church of Christ has been led to call you as pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Catoctin Association?

*Rev. Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley:*

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.

*Sheresa Simpson-Rice:*

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

*Trinity UCC Members:*

**We, the members of Trinity United Church of Christ, receive Jessica Marie Ashcroft-Townsley as our pastor and teacher, promising to labor with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support. We gather with her and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

*Rob Apgar:*

Members of the Catoctin Association, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with Trinity United Church of Christ and its pastor and teacher?

*Association Members:*

We, the members of the Catoctin Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the pastor and teacher of Trinity United Church of Christ, as a sign of our covenant and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.

## Prayer of Installation

*Sheresa Simpson-Rice:*

Let us pray.

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 Jessica to whom the care of your people in this church is now committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit on her, on the people of Trinity United Church of Christ, and on all the churches of the Catoclin Association that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage. Grant us the spirit of power and of love and of a sound 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, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

## Declaration

*Rob Apgar:*

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Catoclin Association of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you, Rev. Jessica Ashcroft-Townsley, duly installed as pastor and teacher of Trinity United Church of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

\*The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: ...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory,**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: ...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and

living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again.**

Leader: ...Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

**ALL: Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And  
lead us not into**

**temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the  
kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory forever. Amen.**

Communion

Prayer after Communion

**God of us all, In the gift of bread and cup we celebrate your  
presence in our church and in our lives. As your presence  
unites us in the gift of this holy meal, so we know that in  
your love we are united wherever we are. Keep true in us  
that same spirit that has united the Church throughout all  
generations and bring us soon into physical communion,  
through that same spirit, which is Christ, the Lord. Amen.**

**SENDING FORTH**

Closing Hymn: All to Jesus I Surrender (HFTLC # 373)

Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

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***Please join us downstairs in the  
Fellowship Hall for the reception  
following the service.***