



**A shared Communion Service
for Trinity Sunday 2018**

**St Michael's Parish Church, Slateford
St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church**

Ministers

Martin Pearce and David Warnes

Call to Worship

We meet in the name of God, Creator of the universe,
source of true humanity, mother and father of all.

Amen.

We meet in the name of Jesus,
Word made flesh, Saviour of fallen humanity, lover of all.

Amen.

We meet in the name of the Holy Spirit,
Lord and giver of life, midwife of new humanity, inspirer of all.

Amen

Come then, eternal God

Be present here, befriend us here, renew us here.

Hymn: I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord CH4 556

Prayer of Adoration

Heaven is here, earth is here, and the space is thin between them.
Distance may divide, but Christ's promises unite those bounded by time and those
blessed by eternity. Let heaven be glad. **Let the whole earth cry "Glory".**

Heaven is here, earth is here, and the Church above above and below is one.
Michael is here, Martin is here, the saints from far back and those who left us not
long ago.

They are one with us. Let heaven be glad. **Let the whole earth cry "Glory".**

Heaven is here, earth is here, and the God who had them is present. Christ is in our
midst and the Holy Spirit breathes upon us. Let heaven be glad. **Let the whole earth
cry "Glory".**

Act of Confession

Loving God, Maker of all **Have mercy on us**

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor **Have mercy on us**

Holy Spirit, Breath of life **Have mercy on us**

Let us in silence admit our frailty and confess our failings

Silence

Before God, with the people of God, we confess our brokenness, the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world

May God the Father forgive us, may Christ the Son renew us, may the Holy Spirit enable us to grow in love. Amen

Hymn: O love that wilt not let me go CH4 557

Gospel read by Stuart Montgomery

The Gospel is taken from St John's Gospel, Chapter 3, beginning to read at the first verse. **Glory to Christ our Saviour**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel. **Praise to Christ our Lord**

Reflection on the Gospel led by Martin Pearce

Introduction to the poem by David Warnes

Song of the soul that rejoices in knowing God by faith by St John of the Cross
(1542-1591)

read by Liz Moir

For I know well the spring that flows and runs,
although it is night.

That eternal spring is hidden,
for I know well where it has its rise,
although it is night.

I do not know its origin, nor has it one,
but I know that every origin has come from it,
although it is night.

I know that nothing else is so beautiful,
and that the heavens and the earth drink there,
although it is night.

I know well that it is bottomless
and no one is able to cross it,
although it is night.

Its clarity is never darkened,
and I know that every light has come from it,
although it is night.

I know that its streams are so brimming
they water the lands of hell, the heavens, and earth,
although it is night.

I know well the stream that flows from this spring
is mighty in compass and power,
although it is night.

I know the stream proceeding from these two,
that neither of them in fact precedes it,
although it is night.

This eternal spring is hidden
in this living bread for our life's sake,
although it is night.

It is here calling out to creatures;
and they satisfy their thirst, although in darkness,
because it is night.

This living spring that I long for,
I see in this bread of life,
although it is night.

Silence

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, for you made us. All that is spectacular, all that is plain have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving point to you as their fulfilment

Grateful for the world we know and for the unknown vastness of creation, we praise you whom eternity cannot contain for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

We praise you for his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his challenging and disturbing words and actions, for his innocent suffering, his fearless dying and his rising to new life breathing forgiveness.

We praise you for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness.

Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven:

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.

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. On the night on which he was betrayed, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to his disciples saying: "This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me."

After they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said: “This is the cup of the new relationship with God made possible through my death. Drink this, all of you, to remember me.”

We take this bread and this wine. In these gifts Jesus has promised to be present. Through these gifts, Christ can make us whole.

Merciful God send now in your kindness your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and this wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. And let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this passing world until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

Jesus, firstborn of Mary **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Saviour of the world **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, ruling in heaven, **Grant us peace.**

The sharing of bread and wine

The Peace

Hymn: The day you gave us, Lord, has ended CH4 220

Final responses and Blessing

God, who created you in the divine image, sends you forth:
we go, to reflect the presence of our Creator to everyone we meet.

Jesus, who has redeemed you, has established the reign of God in our midst:
we go, to bring healing to the broken of the world.

The Holy Spirit, who calls you to be God's people, goes with you to many places:
We go, to tear down the walls that divide us, to build lives of hope for all of God's children.

And now, may the peace of the rolling waves,
the peace of the silent mountains,
the peace of the singing stars,
and the deep peace of the Prince of Peace,
be with you now and forever. **Amen.**



Nicodemus and Jesus – a sketch by Rembrandt.

