

## **A Reflection from our Music Director, Scott Hayes: June 14, 2023**

During the summer months, worship at All Saints takes on a special significance. We embrace a unique musical approach that maintains the essence of familiar and deeply meaningful music.

Every church has its own hymn "list," and James Litton, a major contributor to Hymnal 1982, once stated that each congregation knows approximately 150 hymns (not necessarily the same ones!). Anglican hymnody encompasses a rich stylistic range, making it a priceless treasure for future generations. It's always a delight when your favorite hymn is included in the rotation, isn't it?

You might recall our hosting of an Evensong for the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM) in June 2022. If you missed last year's Evensong, you truly missed out on some of the most exciting hymn singing ever witnessed at All Saints. Listen to one of the hymns here. This morning, I was reminded of our Evensong, at the opening of our 2023 conference in Dallas. I have yet to hear an organ that can keep up with the 200+ musicians at the conference. The energy is palpable, contagious, and truly awe-inspiring.

As we journey through the summer months, I invite you to contemplate the music of the church. (A fun hint: it's all about the text!) Carefully read the lyrics of the hymns and explore how the music supports the text. In what ways do the musicians lead to bring out a particular phrase? How do the hymn texts weave a web around the appointed readings, or a particular emotion?

For this summer, I have taken on the challenge of blogging about the hymns we sing in our church each week. I will select a "hymn of the week" and explore its background and musical qualities. The first entry, focusing on "Old 100th" or the "Doxology," has already been posted. You can find the blog [here](#)!

Lastly, I encourage you to reflect on how music enriches and challenges your Christian journey, both within the context of church music and beyond. Take a moment to consider the various forms of music you encounter throughout the week and how they contribute to your spiritual growth. My prayer for you this summer is that the music you encounter will serve as a source of strength, courage, peace, and joy. And, of course, you are always welcome to join us in the choir pews, lending your voice to lead the music of our church!