THE LILLY/CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE PROJECT, 2018-19

SAINT MICHAEL EPISCOPAL CHAPEL 7:30 A.M. SUNDAY RITE I LITURGY

An Exploration of How Music Can Enhance a Treasured Liturgy

*“Those who sing, pray twice.”* – Attr., St. Augustine

**Congregational comments from breakfast September 23, 2018**

**“What music speaks deeply to you?”**

* Organ
* Hymns heard in Episcopal church over lifetime
* Old Cokesbury Hymnal
* Bach, Beethoven, Handel
* "Old" Gospel songs
* Classical church music / traditional hymns
* Doxology
* Instrumental, Interludes
* Gregorian chant/plainsong ("form of prayer for me")
* "Praise and worship" music, upbeat w/ recognizable melody

**What memory does it stir?”**

* Childhood church / growing up in the church
* Church activities, the fellowship with others
* Church ceremonies - past and present
* Singing in SMAA choir
* Beauty and joy
* My children attending joy mass
* Memories of the reason I converted to Christianity
* Of loved ones past
* The mission of saints
* Those who built our early church
* Emmaus/Cursillo experiences
* Grandmother singing hymns

**“How does that memory connect to one of your deepest held values?”**

* Passes on values to my children
* Learning to love and serve the Lord
* The importance of faith (music exemplifying faith of lyricist)
* Comfort of music when troubled
* Music makes the service more spiritual. God seems closer, Jesus is there
* Makes me a part of the service
* Reminds me of the blessed company of faithful people - in heaven and on earth
* Family and I singing in church choirs - core foundation of my faith
* Memories help maintain my faith
* Music is a form of worship - connects me with Christ's love

~ over ~

**Comments from group discussion after breakfast:**

How does music benefit worship? Why is it important?

* Gets me more involved
* Gets me into spirit/spirituality of service
* Reminds me of company of faithful and the spectrum of holy ground
* Music is mentioned throughout Bible - we can't have worship without music
* Connects me to past / family / memories
* Helps me remember words
* Is calming
* Familiarity makes me more comfortable
* Leaves with you (and stays with you!)
* Brings me closer to Jesus
* Helps musicians connect to their faith
* Is welcoming to newcomers, makes them feel a part of the service
* Well known hymns help bind us

Discussion of how those present want to sing more but they are "shy". Having organ support is helpful, as would a small choir. Beginning to sing familiar hymns is important. How can we determine what is familiar?

Next steps:

1. Distribute a survey of hymns to learn what hymns are most familiar.
2. Explore invitations to choristers who may enjoy supporting congregational singing at the 7:30 AM liturgy.