

June of each year sees the city of Marseille hosting the *Fête de la musique* and music is everywhere. At the same time, the Church of England also recognizes the second Sunday in June as the time to highlight the contribution of the Royal College of Church Music. For us at All Saints', these two events fit nicely into our Music Sunday worship service.

This year we were blessed with many music offerings for Music Sunday. Father David Greenwood changed the lectionary readings for the day so that we had scripture readings that all related to music. Our psalm for the day was number 96, "O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth." From Colossians, Chapter 3 we were encouraged to "let the word of Christ dwell in [us] richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in our hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God". And our gospel related how our sacramental life was directly connected with music, as Matthew 26: 26-30 noted that "while they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'" and that "when they had SUNG THE HYMN, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

Father David's music themed sermon featured our Old Testament reading, Exodus 15: 1-7, 9-11, when after freshly escaping slavery in Egypt and crossing the Red Sea, Moses'sister Miriam led the Israelites in singing the Song of the Sea, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea." And told us of the many hymns and songs mentioned in scripture.

Aside from hearing of music in the scriptures and the history of our faith, we also heard many pieces of music. Our four hymns for the day came from well-known classical musicians –Bach, Beethoven, Handel, and Holst. Our processional hymn was *Sing to God new songs of worship* sung to the tune "Ode to Joy" by Ludwig von Beethoven. Before the gospel, our gradual hymn was #363 *O God beyond all Praising* sung to "Thaxted" from Gustav Holst's "The Planets". As our collection was received, our Offertory hymn was #45 *At the Lamb's high feast we sing* sung to "Salzburg" by J.S. Bach. And, as the worship ended, our recessional hymn was the well-known #432 *Rejoice, the Lord is King* with the melody "Gospel" by George Frideric Handel.



*Nick Hamilton (left) with guitar, Roxana and Aidan play for the worshipping community.*

Prior to worship starting, our chaplaincy trio Roxana on keyboard, Amanda (flute) and Aidan (cello) played a prelude. During the admiration of the Holy Communion, Nick Hamilton, Aidan's brother, played *Scarborough Fair* with Amanda on flute. And following worship Nick and Amanda improvised a jazz piece. We were filled with the beauty of music.

And to continue the event, following our coffee and fellowship time, we hosted an afternoon concert (and fundraiser) by the Celtic duet *Arwen*.