

Below you will find all the words to join in on our Portobello Churches Christmas Pilgrimage on **Thursday 22nd December**. We will be starting at **11am** at St John's Church before going to Portobello Baptist and then along the Prom to Portobello and Joppa Parish Church before finishing at St Mark's.

At each stop we will gather for a reading, a carol and a prayer.

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#### ST JOHN'S CHURCH

#### LUKE 1.26-38- THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be*

*impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.*

## **Carol**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came  
His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame  
"All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold  
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."  
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

## **Prayer**

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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH  
LUKE 2.1-7 - THE BIRTH OF JESUS

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first*

*registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

### **Carol**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The baby king Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars he created looked down where he lay,  
The maker of all things, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, our saviour awakes  
Our frailty he shows in the crying he makes  
Displaying his Glory, though weak and so small  
His life was an offering, a gift to us all.

Be near us Lord Jesus, we ask thee to stay  
Close by us forever, and love us we pray  
Forgive us and free us to live by your grace  
That we might adore you, today and always.

### **Prayer**

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PORTOBELLO AND JOPPA PARISH CHURCH  
LUKE 2.8-16 - THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.*

## **Carol**

Still the night, holy the night!  
Sleeps the world; hid from sight,  
Mary and Joseph in stable bare  
watch o'er the Child beloved and fair,  
sleeping in heavenly rest,  
sleeping in heavenly rest.

Still the night, holy the night!  
Shepherds first saw the light,  
heard resounding clear and long,  
far and near, the angel-song,  
'Christ the Redeemer is here!'  
'Christ the Redeemer is here!'

Still the night, holy the night!  
Son of God, O how bright  
love is smiling from thy face!  
Strikes for us now the hour of grace,  
Saviour, since thou art born!  
Saviour, since thou art born!

## Prayer

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ST MARK'S CHURCH  
MATTHEW 2.1-11- THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:*

*"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel."'*

*Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

## **Carol**

O COME all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him born the King of Angels:  
*O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created:

*O come.....*

Lo, star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold and myrrh;  
We to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations:

*O come....*

Sing, choirs of Angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, in the Highest: *O come.....*

## **Prayer**