Lessons and Carols
A Traditional Candlelight Service
Christmas Eve

Prelude
Welcome
Choral Introit

Christmas Eve Call to Worship

Leader 1: The Prophet Isaiah said:
The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
On them light has shined.

People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Leader 2: The Priest Zechariah said before John's birth:
By the tender mercy of our God,
The dawn from on high will break upon us,
To give light to those who sit in darkness,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.

People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Leader 3: The Evangelist John said:
What has come into being in him was life
And the life is the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
And the darkness did not overcome it.

People: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Leader 4: God is with us
God is coming into our lives in a new way
The birth of the Christ-child is the renewal of hope
A reminder that Christ will come again
Keep watch for the light; it is drawing near.

ALL: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Carol O Come, All Ye Faithful
First Lesson Luke 1:26-38 *The message of the angel*

Lighting of the first Advent candle

Carol Angels We Have Heard on High
Second Lesson Luke 1:39-45 *Good news for two women*
Lighting of the second Advent candle

Carol Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come
Third Lesson Luke 1:46-55 *Mary's hymn of praise*
Lighting of the third Advent candle

Special Music

Fourth Lesson Matthew 1:18-25 *Joseph's Dream*
Lighting of the fourth Advent candle

Carol It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
Fifth Lesson Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus*
Lighting of the fifth Advent candle (Christ candle)

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem
Sixth Lesson Luke 2:8-20 *The Shepherds and the Angels*

Carol The First Noel, The Angel Did Say (verses 1-4 only)

Offertory
Doxology
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Children's Message

Carol Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*(*Option of Communion: some hymnals have special Christmas Eve Communion music; if yours does not, the carol "I Wonder As I Wander" is a suggestion, and after Communion, "What Child Is This")*

Solo: *(during this time, we would start lighting the candles and prepare to turn the lights out in the sanctuary)*

Christmas Prayer

Carol Silent Night! Holy Night! *(insert so folks don't need the hymnal)*

Benediction
Postlude