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