PRELUDE I am So Glad Each Christmas Eve Kyle Johnson

Norwegian Christmas Song (Jeg er Saa Glad)

ENTRANCE "Come On, Ring Those Bells" [see insert]

BELL RINGERS RING THOSE BELLS

WELCOME

CHRISTMAS READING

ALL: Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, He may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Holy Night"

Kyle Johnson

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: THE CHRIST CANDLE

ALL: "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" (Luke 2:6-7).

L: Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

ALL: Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth -- regardless of circumstances -- reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God.

L: On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know . . . He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

(All Advent Candles are lit at this time)

<u>CAROL OF PRAISE</u> "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH No. 238 vs. 1-2

READER #1 THE PROMISE OF THE MESSIAH Isaiah 9: 6

<u>CAROL OF RESPONSE</u> "Come, O Come, Emmanuel" UMH No. 211 vs. 5,6,7

Antiphon a short sentence sung or recited before or after a psalm or canticle.

(The following antiphons may be read before and between hymn stanzas.)

L: Antiphon 5: O KEY OF DAVID and Scepter of the house of Israel, who opens and no one shuts, who shuts and no one opens:

ALL: Come, and bring forth from prison the captive who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.

5. O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home. The captives from their prison free, and conquer death's deep misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: Antiphon 6: O DAYSPRING, Brightness of the light eternal and Sun of justice:

ALL: Come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

L: Antiphon 7: O KING OF THE GENTILES and their Desired One, Cornerstone that makes both one:

ALL: Come, and deliver us whom you formed out of the dust of the earth.

7. O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind. From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

READER #2

JESUS TOOK ON OUR SINS

Isaiah 53

KID'S TIME

"The Jessie Tree"

<u>CAROL OF JOY</u> "Joy to the World" UMH No. 246

READER #3 THE ANNUNCIATION Luke 1:26-38

<u>SPECIAL MUSIC</u> "Mary Did You Know?" Kyle and Amanda Johnson

READER #4 JOSEPH Matthew 1:18-25

<u>CAROL OF PRAISE</u> "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" TFWS No. 2099

READER #5 THE BIRTH OF JESUS Luke 2:8-20

CAROL OF INVITATION "Come, Thou-Long Expected Jesus" TFWS No. 196

READER # 6 GOD IN THE FLESH THE INCARNATION John 1:14-18

<u>SPECIAL MUSIC</u> "New Kid In Town" Bob Stephan

<u>CAROL OF PRAISE</u> "Hark! The Harold Angels Sing" UMh No. 240

MESSAGE "Christmas A Time of Hope"

<u>CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</u> "Silent Night, Holy Night" UMH No. 239 vs.1-4 (Guitar -Bob Stephen)

Benediction

A Christmas Benediction

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi and the peace of the Christ Child. May Almighty God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever Amen.