

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday, December 22, 2024**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Speak to an usher if you would like a hearing assistive device**

\* All who are able may stand; **congregation reads bold print**

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIGHTING/BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a Son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these Advent candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved. Amen.

*(Congregation Sings)*

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain***

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel*

**O come, O Wisdom, from on high; embracing all things far and nigh;  
In strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain***

**\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.  
God of might, we confess that we have sinned.  
We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.  
God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us.  
Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through **+** Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. Amen.

**\*GATHERING SONG**    *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*    ELW 424



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright  
 2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more  
 3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye  
 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -



ser - a - phs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:  
 glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:  
 pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!  
 per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,  
 "Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal  
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs  
 Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:  
 Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:  
 strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:  
 Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:



"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: J. Athelstan Riley, 1858–1945  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

## \*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE

*Refrain*



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world. . . *Refrain*  
That we may live out your impassioned response. . . *Refrain*  
For peace in our heart. . . *Refrain*  
For your Spirit to guide. . . *Refrain*

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah, the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth,  
<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

**Luke 1:46b-55**

<sup>46b</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**  
**From this day all generations will call me blessed:**  
<sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.  
<sup>50</sup> **You have mercy on those who fear you,**  
**from generation to generation.**  
<sup>51</sup> You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup> **casting down the mighty from their thrones**  
**and lifting up the lowly.**  
<sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**  
**to remember the promise of mercy,**  
<sup>55</sup> the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

## **SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 10:5-10**

A reading from Hebrews, the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;  
<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.  
<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”  
<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices  
and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to  
the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first

in order to establish the second.<sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL**

**Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]**

The holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said,  
 “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.  
 Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
 and holy is his name;  
 50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
 51 He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
 and lifted up the lowly;  
 53 he has filled the hungry with good things  
 and sent the rich away empty.  
 54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,  
 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
 to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON**

**Pastor Anna Rieke**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Cold December Flies Away*

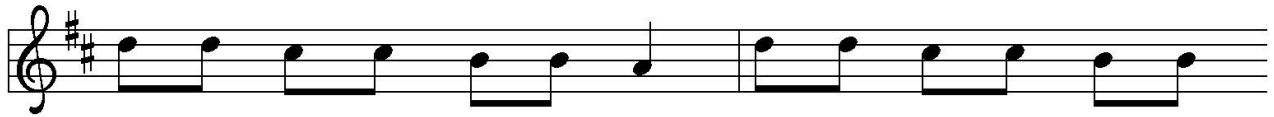
ELW 299



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.  
 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.  
 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders  
 All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.  
 In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the  
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en  
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the  
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est  
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.  
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.  
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

Text: Catalanian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953  
Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalanian carol  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,**

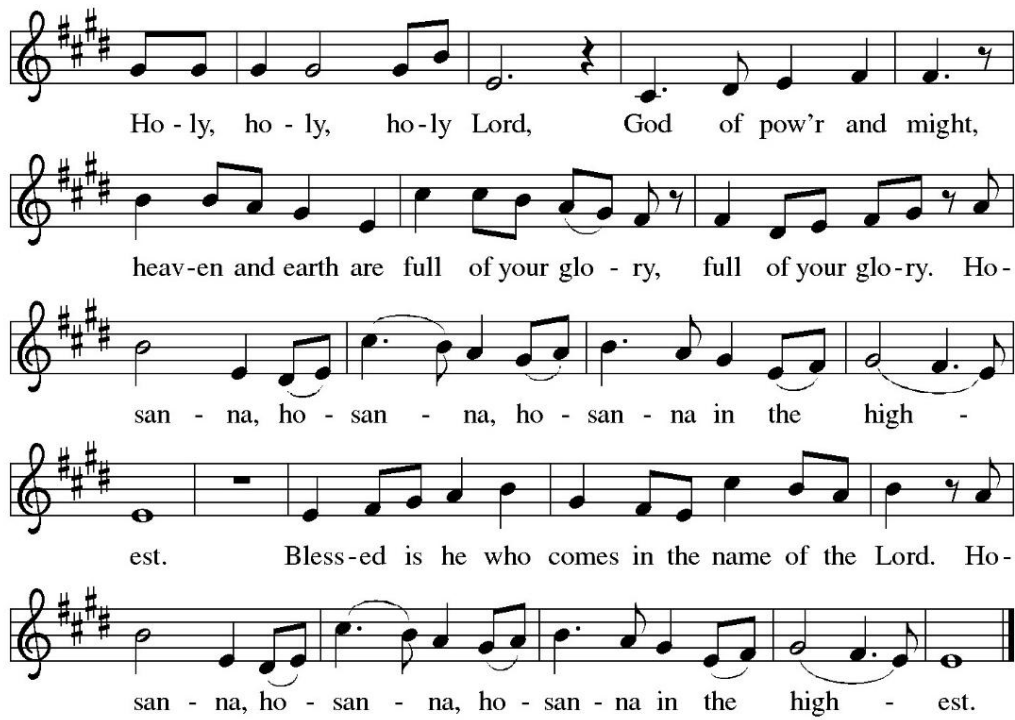
**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**







Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

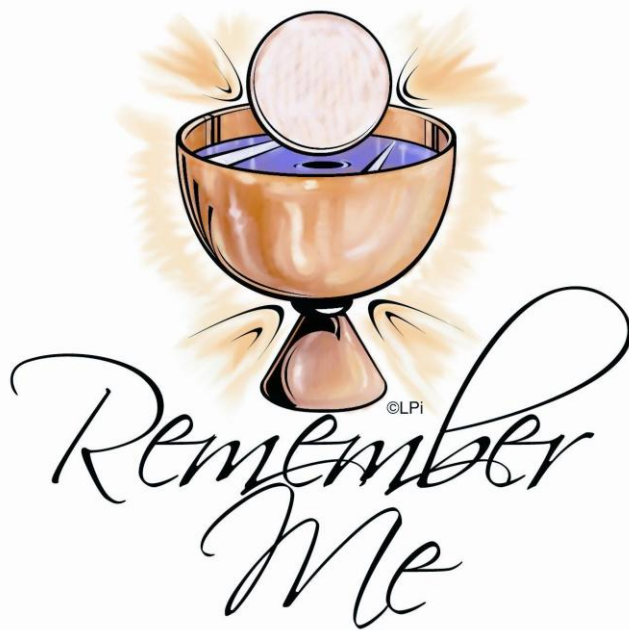
**Pastor Anna Rieke**

**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

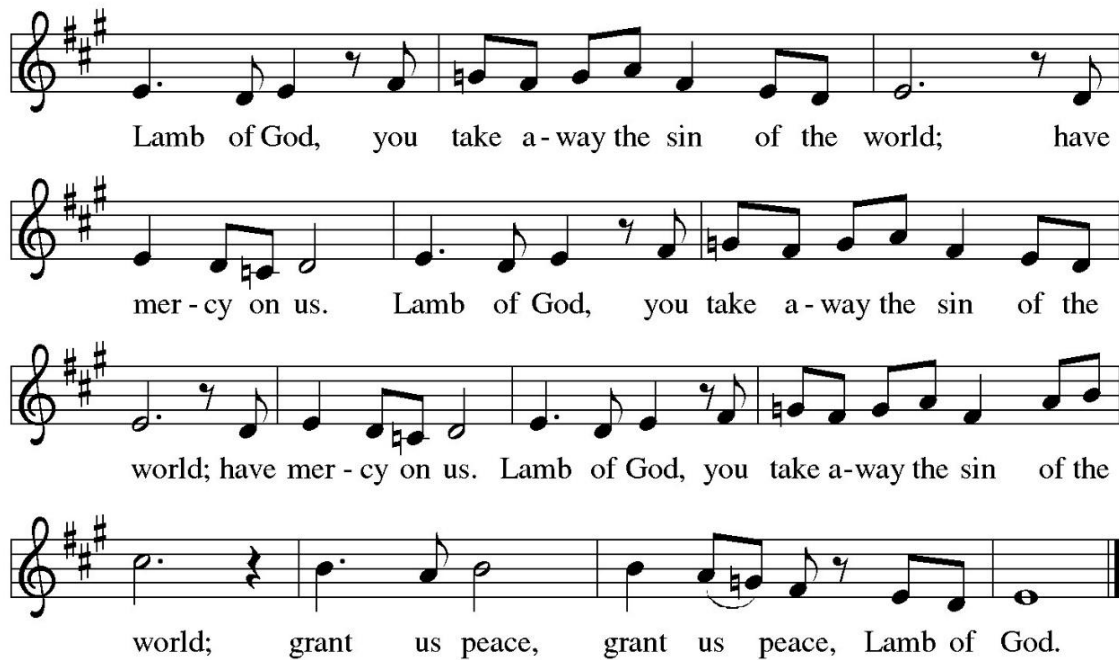
Green Hymnal, p. 91

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**All are welcome to commune**



## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

### \*BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Let us pray. **Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

### \*BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey, ✚ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG***The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came*

ELW 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."      Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.****POSTLUDE***Christmas in Sicily*  
Lincoln Wright, organ

Pietro Yon

**Copyright Statement**

Copyright Information: From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #28520, OneLicense.net #A-706006. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. **ELW 258 & 265**

### Today's Service Participants

Ushers: Jon & Brent  
Lighting Advent Wreath: Mark & Valerie Kennedy  
Lector: Luann Spraker  
Communion Assistants: Sue Mayfield & Sharon Kittle

Thank you for assisting with the service this morning. **If anyone is interested in assisting with the service, please place your name onto the sign-up sheet in Nelles Fellowship Hall.**

### CtL Prayer List

New Requests in green

#### Special Intentions

Michael (son)	Doug & Nancy Besemer
Donna (Doug's sister)	
Sophia Bradley (niece)	Sal Martello
Todd Kennedy (brother)	Mark Kennedy
Alexander Deleon (AF) (nephew)	Gerald & America Naber
Michael Naber Jr. (AF) (grandson)	

#### Home Bound

Jean Bente

Health Issues

Pete Carpenter	
Keith Kittle	
Nancy Hales (Heart Issues)	
Brent Saunders	
Jason Wright	
Susie Bradstock (friend)	Dave & Gretchen Clark
John Anderson (brother-in-law)	Jerry Graunke
Erika (wife)	Roger Greaves
Trevor Graetz (friend)	Susan Mayfield
Jan Parilla (friend)	Tom & Luann Spraker
Bill and Patty Coulter (cousin)	Susan Farrington
Mike & Jackie Strosnider (friends)	
Susan & Scott Farrington	
Ken Mulzer (friend)	Bob & Dian Flach
Ron Flanders (brother)	Marilyn Flanders
Krystin Flanders	
Gene (son's father)	
Larry & Joyce Vetch (friends)	Keith & Kristy Hainy
Toni Lusk (friend)	
Jaren David Corral (friend's brother)	Mark & Valerie Kennedy
Michelle (friend)	
Brenda Schotter (niece)	Skip & Joan McGinnis
George (cousin)	
Bill (brother)	
Lyn	Dan & Diane Nelson's friends
Charles	
Jim Johnson (friend)	Brent & Pam Saunders
Shirley Prescott	
Helena Harja	
Paula (daughter)	Jan & Carla Skladany

Cancer

Ted Pederson (brother-in-law)	Carol Albers
Doug Besemer	
Steve Boccieri (friend)	Doug & Nancy Bessemer
Pat Miller	Pete Carpenter
Linda Lamphier (friend)	Frances Emerson
Pat Moran (friend)	Grace Farrington
LaRoy Luther (friend)	Owen & Ruth Germundson
Mary Anderson (sister)	Jerry Graunke
Steve (brother)	Jennie Lespron
Dr. Ian Akiyama (friend)	Kennedys and Nelsons
Joe Marotta (friend)	Mark Kennedy
Nicholas Teknos (family)	Frank & Joan McGinnis
Debbie Chevalier (best friend)	Pam McGinnis
Ellen Murphy (friend)	Bill Murphy
John White (friend)	Jan Murphy
Chuck Vandenberg (brother-in-law)	Tom & Luann Spraker
Mike Stevens (husband)	Dorothy Stevens
Marilyn Bennett	Brent & Pam Saunders
Larry Glenn (friend)	Robin Coleman & Kay Krueger
Tom McIntyre (friend)	Frances Emerson
Rena Hampton (friend)	
Karen (daughter)	Bob & Dian Flach
Travis Brown (family)	
Ruth Mueller (friend)	
Paul Skoog (friend)	Dan & Diane Nelson
Tom (friend)	
Eileen Hovey (friend)	
Jamie Smith (friend)	
Kirsten Wampler (Dan's sister)	
Anna DeLeon (niece)	
Steve Chaudet (friend)	
Mike Shanklin (friend)	
Amy Andrejko (Diane's cousin)	
Joel Lassman (friend)	

Please contact the Church Office  
to provide updates to the Prayer  
List. Phone: 480-488-2081



*Rev. Anna Rieke, Pastor  
Cell (206) 291-8841  
pastor@ctlcarefree.org*

*Susan Mayfield, Administrative Manager  
Office (480) 488-2081, Ext. 10  
admin@ctlcarefree.org*

*Jill Nelles-Voss, piano  
Lincoln Wright, organ*

*Jane Chavers, Bell Choir Director  
& Worship & Music Council Member*

*Rodney Pitts, IT Specialist*

Website: [ctlcarefree.org](http://ctlcarefree.org)

## *Your 2024 CtL Church Council*

**Rev. Anna Rieke, Pastor**  
206-291-8841 (cell)  
[pastor@ctlcarefree.org](mailto:pastor@ctlcarefree.org)

**Sebastian Martello, Property**  
631-413-6468  
[sebby01@gmail.com](mailto:sebby01@gmail.com)

**Glen Johnson, President**  
312-218-2545  
[gjohnson514@hotmail.com](mailto:gjohnson514@hotmail.com)

**Keith Hainy, Social Ministry**  
605-380-5428  
[kwhainy@nvc.net](mailto:kwhainy@nvc.net)

**Bob Flach, Vice President/Legacy**  
602-318-8943 (cell)  
[bflach@aol.com](mailto:bflach@aol.com)

**Donna Guerin, Stewardship**  
480-433-2898  
[dm7191997@gmail.com](mailto:dm7191997@gmail.com)

**Mark Kennedy, Treasurer**  
480-235-8878  
[snonomo@me.com](mailto:snonomo@me.com)

**Jane Chavers, Worship & Music**  
614-832-3846  
[janechavers@gmail.com](mailto:janechavers@gmail.com)

**John Skorupa, Secretary**  
480-249-9395 or 302-521-0628 (cell)  
[azskorupa@gmail.com](mailto:azskorupa@gmail.com)

**Members-at-Large**  
**Loraine Morris** 623-221-3720  
**Carla Skladany** 480-334-4104

**Dan Nelson, Evangelism & Outreach**  
202-431-1279  
[dan.nelson@nelsoninsight.com](mailto:dan.nelson@nelsoninsight.com)