



A Service of Worship
World Communion Sunday
October 4, 2026
10:10 a.m., Sanctuary & Livestream

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

We Gather

Prelude *Partita on "Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen"* David Cherwien
 II. Rise, O Church (Like incense)

Welcome and Concerns of the Church Dr. Sandy Hull
The Lord be with you. **And also with you!**

Moment for Mission Greg Hobby

Introit *I Come with Joy* arr. Austin Lovelace

***Call to Worship** Rebecca Guzman

One: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

All: We gather from the east and the west, from the north and the south.

One: We come to sit at the table in the kingdom of God,

All: welcomed as one family in the presence of the Living God.

One: How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

All: We lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

One: From every nation, every people, and every place, God welcomes us.

All: Thanks be to God! Come, let us worship together.

***Hymn 260** *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* HYFRYDOL



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter, his the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in sor - row
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, here on earth our food, our
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o - tent we



throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the vic - to -
 now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be - lies nor
 stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from
 own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your foot - stool,



ry a - lone! Hark! The songs of peace - ful Zi - on
 ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him,
 day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,
 heaven your throne. As with - in the veil you en - tered,

Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Rebecca Guzman

God of mercy, we confess that we have not loved you with all our being.
 We have done things which we ought not to have done, and we have
 left undone things which we ought to have done. We have built walls
 between neighbors and between countries, and we have ignored the
 cries of those in need. Forgive us and set us free, that we may live into
 the hope of your calling, that your reign may come on earth as it is in
 heaven. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

Rebecca Guzman

One: Thanks be to God: Jesus died for our sins. We are forgiven!

All: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*Response of Praise

Hymn 659

*Know that God is good. Know that God is good.
 Know that God is good; God is good; God is good.
 Halle, hallelujah. Halle, hallelujah.*

Halle, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

We Hear and Respond to the Word

Church Family Moment

Rebecca Guzman

1. **Today is World Communion Sunday!** Christians all over the world are celebrating Communion, or the Lord's Supper. Here are some things Presbyterians believe about Communion:
 - a) It is more than a symbol, but we do not believe the bread and cup actually become Jesus' body and blood.
 - b) Jesus is mysteriously present with us at the Table.
 - c) We are united with "all the saints of every time and place" — Christians around the world and those who have gone before us.
 - d) Communion strengthens us to go, love and serve in the world.
 - e) Everyone is welcome at the Table, regardless of age or faith background.
2. **Color and Pray:** Print and color this [Communion coloring page](#). As you color, think and pray about what Communion means to you and what it means to belong to a worldwide family of people who follow Jesus.
3. **Story Connection:** Listen to a read-aloud of [We Gather at This Table](#). Afterward, talk together: What did you notice about Communion? What does sharing a meal have to do with being part of God's family?
4. **Wonder Together:**
 - a) What do you think it means that Christians all over the world share this meal?
 - b) Who prepares the food you eat and who helps bring it to your table?
 - c) How can sharing food be a way of caring for someone?
 - d) How might Communion help us remember to share what God has given us?



Sacrament of Baptism

Jacob Daniel Schardt

Son of Erin and Josh Schardt, brother of Will

Representing the Session: Sheila McAnally

Representing the Children: Bryson Gann

Questions of the Parents

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he

rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Questions of the Congregation

One: Do we, the members of this congregation, in the name of the whole church of Christ, undertake with these parents the Christian nurture of this child, so that in due time Jacob may confess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

All: We do.

One: Will we endeavor by our example and fellowship to strengthen Jacob's family ties with the household of God?

All: We will.

Questions of the Children

The Act of Baptizing

The Charge

Baptismal Response

No. 482, stanza 3

*Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.*

The children will return to join their families following the sermon.

Prayer for Illumination

Dr. Hull

First Reading

Psalm 34:1-10

Dr. Hull

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want. The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Anthem

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Harold Friedell

Chancel Choir

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in thy name,
two or three are met together, thou art in the midst of them;
alleluia, alleluia! Touch we now thy garment's hem.*

*As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup,
alleluia, alleluia! So knit thou our friendship up.
All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluia, alleluia! We will serve thee faithfully.*

Second Reading

John 6:51-59

Rev. Lindsey Odom

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

One Bread, One Body

Rev. Odom

***Hymn 515**

I Come with Joy
(Stanzas 2-3)

DOVE OF PEACE

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

(Asus) (Am) (G) (F#m) (D)
 Csus Cm B^b Am F

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em) (D/F#) (G) (A) (Am7) (D)
 Gm F/A B^b C Cm7 F

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Offering Invitation

Dr. Hull

Offertory

Think of Me and Remember

Joel Raney

Charleston Bates and Collin Sinclair, tenors

As an alternative to the traditional offering plate, you may support the ministry of SMPC by giving online at www.smpchome.org/give or texting SMPC to 73256.

*Doxology

Hymn 515, stanza 4

***The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such
 friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.***

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Dr. Hull

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Rev. Odom

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** (*Pastor's prayer*)

. . . (unison) **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this**

day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Rev. Odom, Dr. Hull

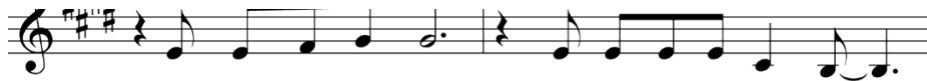
The Bread and the Cup

Communion of the People

Hymn 769

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
a - bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
for young and for old, the right to be - long,
for just and un - just, a new way to live,
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

The Prayer after Communion

Dr. Hull

We Go Out to Serve

*Hymn 536

Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen

SURGE ECCLESIA

1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en, from this
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low af - ter
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture God has
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion; cour - age

meal of love and grace; may we through such love en -
 Christ, though wound - ed, whole; bro - ken, shared, our lives are
 called us to re - ceive; pres - ent by God's lov - ing
 be our dai - ly breath; mer - cy be our des - ti -

vi - sion whose we are, and whose, our praise. Al - le -
 hal - lowed to re - lease and to con - sole. Al - le -
 nur - ture, Spir - it - ed then let us live. Al - le -
 na - tion from this day and un - to death. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: God, the won - der of our days.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia: Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

***Charge and Benediction**

Rev. Odom

***Congregation Response**

Hymn 515, stanza 5

***Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
 we'll go with joy, to give the world
 the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.***

Postlude *Partita on "Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen"* David Cherwien

V. Toccata

Worship Service Notes

Leading Worship this Morning

Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth & Missions/Outreach

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

Chancel Choir; Charleston Bates, Collin Sinclair, tenors

Acolyte: Blair Choren

A/V Team: Brad Alford

Ushers: Andrew Brown, Andrew Gaul, Frank Graham, Judy Jones, Craig

Parrish, Carol Watkins

Welcome Team: Chuck Griffiths, Lina Griffiths, Elizabeth Rose, Lydia Rose

The Prayer of Confession is from [Ministry Matters](#).

Welcome to South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church! If you are joining us in person or online, are a first-time visitor, a long-term member, or anything in between, we are glad that you are worshiping with us and we want to stay connected with you. To receive our emails, sent on Thursday mornings, contact Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager, adrienne@smpchome.org.

Interested in joining South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church? To learn more about membership and the process of joining, contact Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate, melissa@smpchome.org or 704-887-7488.

Congregational Notes (as of September 30, 2026)

Remember in Prayer

- The Mission Study Task Force as they work to discern God's calling for SMPC.
- The people of Bayonnais and all of Haiti, that God would bring protection from violence, healing for the injured, provision for those in need, and strength and hope in the midst of hardship.
- That God would guide us to serve others with compassion, justice, and mercy within our church, our community, and our world.

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPChome.org

SMPC STAFF

Dr. Sandy Hull, Transitional Pastor

sandy@smpchome.org

Rev. Lindsey Odom, Associate Pastor of Youth & Missions/Outreach

lindsey@smpchome.org

Rev. Melissa White, Parish Associate

melissa@smpchome.org

Laura Black, Ministry Associate for Children and Music

laura@smpchome.org

Zach Bowyer, Director of Music & Organist

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Rebecca Guzman, Director of Spiritual Formation

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Adrienne Jaquith, Office and Database Manager

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Cheryl Perry, Director of Communications

cheryl@smpchome.org

Steve Stevenson, Facility Administrator

steve@smpchome.org

Dr. Tammy Winchip, SMPC Preschool Director

tammy@smpchome.org

Mary Katheryne Zagora, Financial Administrator

mkzagora@smpchome.org

To join the prayer chain or send a prayer request:

prayer@SMPChome.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed

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South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church

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Facebook: [@southmecklenburgpresbyterian](https://www.facebook.com/southmecklenburgpresbyterian); Instagram: [@southmeckpres](https://www.instagram.com/southmeckpres)

SMPC WEEKLY

OCTOBER 4, 2026

WELCOME!

After worship, we hope you'll join us for lemonade and cookies near Coffee Grounds. Registry pads are located in your pews. Please sign and pass to your neighbor and perhaps introduce yourself to someone new!

TODAY, OCTOBER 4



Today we begin our annual stewardship emphasis. Over the next three weeks, we will celebrate all God is doing at SMPC and take time individually to pray for God's leading as we make our pledges for 2027. Scan the QR code to see how the church's budget will be allocated next year.



"Thus says the Lord, 'See, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?'" (Isaiah 43:19). What a joy and privilege it is to participate in God's new thing at SMPC!

Lunch on the Grounds

11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall and SMPC Parking Lot

All are invited for our fall Lunch on the Grounds this afternoon! Catered by Brown Bag. Adults - \$12; Children 4-11 - \$6; Children 3 and under - free.

Contact: *Melissa White, melissa@smpchome.org.*

THIS WEEK

SMPC Tuesday Mahjong

Tuesday, Oct. 6 • 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Narthex

Players of all skill levels are invited to play weekly on Tuesdays. Contact: *Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org*

Lunch Bunch Fall Gathering

Tuesday, Oct. 6 • 11:30 a.m. • Trio Restaurant

All are invited to join this group for lunch. Bring a friend! RSVP on Realm or via QR code. Contact: *Ruth Ann Engle, raengle22@gmail.com, or Anita Schult, coachanita2001@yahoo.com*



Pastor's Weekday Bible Study

Wednesday, Oct. 6 • 9:30 a.m. • McQueen Room or Zoom

This Bible study meets weekly with Transitional Pastor Sandy Hull. They are studying the Sermon on the Mount. Contact *Adrienne Jaquith, adrienne@smpchome.org*

Shelter Ministry **SERVE!**

Thursday, Oct. 8 • 9:30 a.m. • Mecklenburg Hall

Fill empty medicine bottles with body wash for Roof Above. Body wash and Rx vials are always needed (no shampoo or conditioner!). Contact: *Carol Morgan, morgancc43@gmail.com.*

Men's Breakfast Group

Thursday, Oct. 8 • 9:30 a.m. • Big View Diner

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays to enjoy breakfast and conversation. Contact: *Bob Tyler, btyler@unitedskates.com*

SMPC Thursday Mahjong

Thursday, Oct. 8 • 1:15-3:15 p.m. • Narthex

Players of all skill levels are invited to play weekly on Thursdays. Contact: *Mary Katheryne Zagora, mkzagora@smpchome.org*

SMPC Book Club - Pages and Fellowship **NEW!**

Thursday, Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m. OR Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1:30 p.m. • McQueen Room

Both groups will read *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: *Freda Smith, fredasmithnc8@gmail.com, or Jane Brookshire, jane.t.brookshire@gmail.com*



@southmecklenburgpresbyterian



@southmeckpres

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Adult Study: Christmaker: A Life of John the Baptist

9:00-10:00 a.m. • McQueen Room or Zoom

Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org

Desserts for the Women and Children of Center of Hope **SERVE!** **Drop off before worship in the narthex**

Sign up via QR. Contact: Terry Gaines, terryhgaines@gmail.com



BAM! (Bible and Music)

5:00-6:30 p.m. • Palmer Building • Grades K-5

Children sing, creatively engage with Bible stories, explore instruments, and build friendships in age-based groups. Dinner is served. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Rebecca Guzman, rebecca@smpchome.org

October BYG (Big Youth Group)

5:00-6:30 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall • Middle and High Schoolers

BYG is held on the first Sunday of each month during the school year to provide an opportunity for youth to grow in faith and friendships. Register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org



Nourish Up Food Drive - Bags Available **Narthex**

We are collecting canned goods for Nourish Up throughout October. List of items needed will be stapled on the bags.

Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

COMING UP

Operation Sandwich,

Sunday, Oct. 11 • 5:00-6:30 p.m. • Mecklenburg Hall

We will make sandwiches for Roof Above! Please sign up to bring sandwich materials and register on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Lindsey Odom, lindsey@smpchome.org

A Caregiver's Journey

Tuesday, Oct. 13 • 1:00-2:30 p.m. • McQueen Room

A support group focused on finding meaning and purpose while caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. Contact: Kathy Garner, kathygarner15@gmail.com

Men's Evening Study Group

Tuesday, Oct. 13 • 7:30 p.m. • Chapel 206

Meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays. New faces are always welcome! Contact: Jon Myers, jonmyers2@gmail.com

International Dining Group

Thursday, Oct. 15 • 6:30 p.m. • Mario's Italian Restaurant

All are welcome - bring a friend! RSVP on Realm, via QR code or at smpchome.org/events. Contact: Carol Roan, candwroan@gmail.com, or Brenda Villa, bvilla20@carolina.rr.com



Making Space Moms Group

Thursday, Oct. 15 • 7:30 p.m. • Room 302

Moms of all ages are welcome to join us on the first and third Thursdays of the month for Bible study, service and fellowship. Newcomers are always welcome! No registration required, but participants can RSVP on Realm or smpchome.org/events. Contact: Allison Reeves, allison.tarwater@gmail.com

Friday Morning Men's Group

Friday, Oct. 16 • 7:30-8:30 a.m. • Chapel 206

Meets on the first and third Fridays for study and fellowship. All are welcome. Contact: Curt Ireland, irelandcurtis00@gmail.com

Center of Hope Breakfast **SERVE!** **Meet at SMPC at 5:15 a.m.**

On the third Saturday of every month, SMPC prepares and serves breakfast for Center of Hope guests. To donate or sign up to serve, scan QR code or go to smpchome.org/events.

Contact: Lee Martin, leewilsonmartin@gmail.com



NEW MEMBERS

FALL 2026

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members!



Priscilla and Richard Mills

Priscilla and Richard Mills have two grown daughters, Marti and Mary Anne. They have lived in Charlotte for over 65 years. Priscilla is a native Charlottean, and Richard grew up in Winston-Salem. Previously, they were members of St. Andrews United Methodist Church where they were involved in a variety of ministries and leadership roles. They came to SMPC after their grandchildren attended (and loved!) Vacation Bible School.

The Mills have jumped right into ministry and service at SMPC. Richard is a tenor in the Chancel Choir, and Priscilla regularly assists with Children's Worship. The couple also helps feed our neighbors in need by making lunches for Roof Above.

Richard works for Rike Roofing in sheet metal fabrication. In his free time, he enjoys animals, building and craft work. Priscilla is an insurance auditor with Key Benefit. In her spare time, she enjoys animals and reading.

The Millses live in Raeburn.

Richard: rsiroofer@aol.com

Priscilla: priscats@aol.com



Manny Ndingwan

Manny Ndingwan and his wife, Amanda, have two children: Samantha ("Sam"), an 8th grader at Telra Institute, and Sabina ("Binn"), a 5th grader at Telra Institute. While Manny grew up in the Bronx, NY, the Ndingwans moved to Charlotte in 2009 from Greensboro where they were members at Vandalia Presbyterian Church. Manny is a business analyst with Spectrum, and Amanda is a medical historian at Atrium.

Manny has many hobbies, but he especially enjoys finding solutions to complex problems and spending quality time with family and friends in his free time. Amanda loves to travel, shop, try out new restaurants and spend time with family. They are looking forward to serving, connecting and growing spiritually as a family at SMPC.

The Ndingwans live in Providence Estates East.

Manny: manny.ndingwan@gmail.com



Ciara Samana

Ciara Samana and her husband, Sameer, have two children: Serena, an 8th grader, and Max, a 6th grader. Ciara and Sameer grew up in Memphis, TN, and lived in Richmond, VA and St. Louis, MO, before coming to Charlotte four years ago. Ciara attended Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Memphis. Ciara is a full-time mom, and Sameer is a Global Strategist for Wells Fargo.

A self-proclaimed "serial hobbyist," Ciara enjoys cabinet making, needlepointing, gardening and spending time outside. The family especially enjoys the Whitewater Center. Serena and Max are involved with SMPC Youth, and Ciara is now happily finding herself driving youth to various activities.

The Samanas live in Quail Acres.

Ciara: ciara.samana@gmail.com