



A progressive, radically inclusive, anti-racist community

201 West 13th Street, New York, NY, 10011 • (212) 243-5470
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office@churchofthevillage.org

December 25, 2022 • CHRISTMAS DAY

**Honor the Earth / Black Lives Matter
No Human Being Is "Illegal" / No Muslim Ban Ever
Stop Hate Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**



Lessons from the Cattle Stall

WE GATHER

“The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Leni-Lenape, called ‘Lenapehoking.’ The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Leni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware.

We acknowledge the Leni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, “as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine.”

PRELUDE

*Schafe Können Sicher Weiden
(Sheep May Safely Graze)
from Bach’s “Hunt” Cantata
Soloist: María Brea*

Schafe können sicher weiden,
Wo ein guter Hirte wacht.
Wo Regenten wohl regieren,
Kann man Ruh und Friede spüren
Und was Länder glücklich macht.

Sheep may safely graze
where a good shepherd watches.
Where rulers are governing well,
one may feel rest and peace
and what makes countries happy.

WELCOME

CELEBRATION OF DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Song of the Angels

**God is present in this place
all around us, in each face.
There are angels in our midst
this is why we dare to sing –**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**All are welcome in this place,
all are cherished, loved, embraced.
As we join our hearts to sing
hope is born, amazing grace.**

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-20 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David” – Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her delivery. She gave birth to her firstborn, a son; she put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn. There were shepherds in the area living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. The angel of God appeared to them, and the glory of God shone around them; they were very much afraid.

The angel said to them, “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you – news of a great joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in David’s city, a savior – the Messiah – has been born to you. Let this be a sign to you: you’ll find an infant wrapped in a simple cloth, lying in a manger.” Suddenly, there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in high heaven!
And on Earth, peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.”

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem and see this event that God has made known to us.” They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw this, they reported what they had been told concerning the child. All who heard about it were astonished at the report given by the shepherds.

Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds went away glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

Friends, this is the Word that leads to Life.

Thanks be to God.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Away in a Manger

Soloist: María Brea

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little, sweet Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the sky look down where he lay
The little, sweet Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Not far from this temple a family cries
for goodness and dignity far from their eyes
How shall we be Jesus to this family?
The rest of the world is waiting to see.

We welcome this Christmas with much gratitude
Yet those who are different, we often exclude.
Disturb us, dear Jesus, with weight from above,
'Til all of your children are welcomed in love.

MESSAGE

Lessons from the Cattle Stall

Rev. Jeffry Wells
Lead Pastor, *Church of the Village*

WE RESPOND

A TIME OF SHARING

**Put yourself in the cattle stall (then or now):
What lesson(s) do you hear or what feelings do you experience?**

El Cristo de Palacagüina (The Christ from Palacagüina)

Soloist: Alfida Figueroa

Por el *Cerro de la Iguana*,
montaña adentro de *Las Segovias*
se vio un resplandor extraño
como una aurora de media noche.

Los maizales se prendieron,
los quiebra platas se estremecieron,
llovió luz por *Moyogalpa*,
por *Telpaneca* y por *Chichigalpa*.

Cristo ya nació en Palacagüina
del Chepe Pavon y una tal María.

Ella va a planchar muy humildemente
la ropa que goza la mujer hermosa del terrateniente.

La gente para mirarlo
se rejuntaron en un molote,
El indio Joaquín le trajo
quesillo en trenza de Nagarote.
En vez de oro, incienso y mirra
le regalaron (según yo supe)
cajetitas de Diríomo
y hasta buñuelos de Guadalupe.

José el pobre jornalero
se mecatella todito el día,
lo tiene con reumatismo
el tequio de la carpintería.
Maria suena que el hijo
igual que el tata sea carpintero
Pero el cipotillo piensa:
“mañana quiero ser guerrillero.”

On the hill of La Iguana,
deep in the mountains of *Las Segovias*,
a strange glow was seen
like a midnight aurora.
The cornfields lighted up,
The fireflies trembled,
Light rained on Moyogalpa,
Telpaneca and Chichigalpa.

Christ is born in Palacagüina,
From Chepe Pavón and a woman called Mary.
She humbly irons the clothes
that the terrateniente's beautiful wife enjoys

In order to look at him,
the people gathered in a commotion,
Joaquín, the native, brought him,
Nagarote's braid shaped cheese.
Instead of gold, frankincense and myrrh,
They gifted him, (so I've heard),
small *cajetas* from *Diriomo*
and even *buñuelos* from *Guadalupe*.

Joe, the poor day laborer,
works too hard all day long.
He has rheumatism,
from the tough and tedious work of carpentry.
Mary dreams that his son,
will be carpenter like his dad,
but the little boy thinks,
“Tomorrow I want to join the liberation struggle.”

Cerro de La Iguana: Small mountain in the Nicaragua's Nariño region. A large cross sits at the top built by the community under the leadership of Father Juan Antonio Díaz.

Las Segovias: Region in northern Nicaragua

Palacagüina, Moyogalpa, Telpaneca, Chichigalpa, Nagarote: Nicaraguan towns

Chepe: Nickname for Joseph

Terrateniente: Owner of a large estate/plantation who abusively rents portions of the land.

Cajetitas de Diríomo: Sweet milk-based candy from the Diríomo region of Nicaragua.

Buñuelos de Guadalupe: Nicaraguan sweet made of fried cassava flour with cheese and honey.

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE OF GRACE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**Joy to the world! Join in this feast!
Lift up your hearts and sing!
With earth and heaven, in one accord
join in this feast of love, join in this feast of love,
join in, join in this feast of love.**

**This broken bread; this poured-out wine
reveal the love of God.
The love of Christ that makes us one
embodied in the bread, embodied in the wine,
embodied, embodied in bread and wine**

**Come, Holy Spirit, bless these gifts
that they may be for us
the presence of Jesus - the call to spread
this gift of hope and joy, this gift of hope and joy,
this gift, this gift of hope and joy.**

SHARING THE GIFTS OF GRACE

Friends, this is the bread of life, broken and given for you and for all.
And this is the cup of salvation, poured out for you and for all.

Panis Angelicus
(*Bread of Angels*)
Soloist: María Brea

Panis angelicus
Fit panis hominum
Dat panis coelicus
Figuris terminum
O res mirabilis!
Manducat Dominum
Pauper, servus et humilis

The Bread of Angels becomes
the Bread of Humankind
the Bread from Heaven
puts an end to all symbols
How wonderful!
the poor and humble eat
of the very being of God.

A TIME OF OFFERING

4 WAYS TO GIVE:

- The Vanco giving app, using the link on our website <https://www.churchofthevillage.org> or the Vanco mobile app or secure Vanco web link.
Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.
 - Setting up a direct bank transfer from your bank to COTV's bank
 - Mailing a check to COTV's address: 201 West 13th St., NY, NY, 10011
 - For those in the church building: Placing your gift in the offering basket in the sanctuary
- For help with any of these, send an email to giving@churchofthevillage.org
OR call the church office: 212-243-5470

OFFERTORY

Niño Lindo
(Lovely Child)
Soloist: María Brea

*Niño lindo, ante ti me rindo,
Niño lindo, eres tú mi Dios.*

*Lovely child, before you I surrender,
Lovely child, you are my God.*

Esa tu hermosura; ese tu candor,
El alma me roba, me roba el amor.

Your beauty, your candor,
conquers my soul, conquers my love.

La vida, bien mío, y el alma también;
Te ofrezco, gustoso, rendido a tus pies.

Dearest one, I gladly offer you
my life and soul surrendered at your feet.

Adiós, tierno Infante, adiós, Niño, adiós.
Adiós, dulce amante, adiós, Niño, adiós.

Goodbye, tender Infant, goodbye, Child, goodbye.
Goodbye, sweet lover, goodbye, Child, goodbye.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

BLESSING

CLOSING SONG

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hill and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.
Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.**

To talk or pray one-on-one with a Minister of Care, if you are on-site,
you can go to the area by the stairs next to the lobby/narthex at the back of the sanctuary.

If you are online, you can connect with a Minister of Care
by typing **"CARE"** in capital letters in the Zoom chat.

WORSHIP HOSTS

Worship Design Team: Pastor Jeff Wells, Pastor Alexis Lillie, Jorge Lockward, Alfida Figueroa, Katie Reimer, Jim Norton

Worship Leader: Katie Reimer

Dance Ministry: Megan Haungs

Call to Offering: Jorge Lockward

Altar Design: Suzie Wilder

Visuals Design: Marisa Kreinbihl & Katie Reimer

Vocalists: María Brea, Alfida Figueroa & Katie Reimer

Flutes: Saeki Mayu & Nicole Schroeder Raimato

Keyboard: Jorge Lockward

Double Bass: Dave Ephross

Ushers: Maurice White & Sam Winfrey

Zoom Host:

Zoom Chat:

CREDITS

Cover Image:

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Schafe Können Sicher Weiden

(Sheep May Safely Graze)

W: Salomon Franck

M: J. S. Bach

God Is Present in this Place (The Song of the Angels)

W: Katie Reimer & Jorge Lockward

M: French carol melody

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Away in a Manger

W: Stz. 1 attributed to Martin Luther.

Stanzas 2 & 3 author unknown

M: CRADLE SONG William James Kirkpatrick

El Cristo de Palacagüina (The Christ from Palacagüina)

W & M: Carlos Mejía Godoy

Joy to the World Great Thanksgiving

W: Jorge Lockward

M: Lowell Mason (arr. from G.F. Handel)

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Panis Angelicus (Bread of Angels)

W: Saint Thomas Aquinas

M: Cesar Franck

Niño Lindo (Lovely Child)

W & M: Venezuelan Christmas Carol

arr. J. Lockward

Go, Tell it On the Mountain

W & M: African American Spiritual

WE ARE THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE

The Church of the Village is a progressive and radically inclusive community that is committed to dismantling racism, sexism, and all forms of oppression. The foundation for all of our theology and practice is Jesus' instruction to "love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself."

We seek to build a world overflowing with justice, mercy, kindness, and compassion.

Our church building stands on ancestral lands of the Lenape people. The colonizers who stripped Indigenous peoples of their lands used Christianity to justify their actions. We are beneficiaries of a history of appropriation, slavery, and forced migration. We repent and commit to being a community that seeks to repair the harm done to Indigenous peoples and build new pathways to love and justice.

We celebrate human diversity – welcoming people of every color, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and cognitive ability, and economic status. We strongly support environmental justice and stewardship of the Earth. We believe many roads lead to God and are respectful of a diversity of spiritual paths. We believe our community flourishes with many points of view, opportunities for creative expression, and participatory worship.

To learn more about The Church of the Village, please complete our [Virtual Welcome Card](#).

You can also submit a prayer request on the Welcome Card form.

We will gladly send you our weekly email newsletter and Daily Inspiration emails.

If you have questions, please contact PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org.

Please follow us on Facebook ([Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage)), Twitter (@umcofthevillage), and Instagram (churchofthevillage). Check out our [YouTube channel](#) for videos of music, worship, Finding Center, and more.

You can also learn more on our website at churchofthevillage.org.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

December 25 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)
December 27 – Tuesday	2:00pm – 5:00pm	TRDP: Food Pantry
December 28 – Wednesday	6:00pm	Bible Study (via Zoom)
December 30 – Friday	9:00am – 10:00am	Together in Prayer (via Zoom)
December 31 – Saturday	11:30am – 2:00pm	TRDP: Community Meal
January 1 – Sunday	10:10am 10:30am	Pre-service fellowship (via Zoom) Sunday worship (via Zoom or FB Live)

2023 Stewardship Campaign

Together in Commitment, Strength, and Mission

Thank you for pledging financial support to the life and ministry of our beloved community.

Thank you for the many ways your presence enhances our community and work together.

As you prayerfully discern your pledge for 2023,
we invite you to be bold in your generosity as we continue this adventure together.

Submit your pledge: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign>

Questions: Email giving@churchofthevillage.org

We all work together as members and supporters of our spiritual community to foster the ministries and mission of the Church of the Village. Here are ways you can offer your gifts:

- **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER/DIRECT PAYMENT** from your bank account to COTV. This option includes no fees for the giver or the church. You can set this up directly through your bank for one-time gifts/payments or recurring gifts/payments to COTV. For assistance with this process, please contact giving@churchofthevillage.org.
- **VANCO:** [Vanco](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want.
- **CHECK:** you can send a check payable to "The Church of the Village," and mail it to:
Church of the Village
PO Box 167
New York, NY 10113

For assistance with using any of these methods or to talk about remembering Church of the Village in your will, email giving@churchofthevillage.org. *Please note - emails to this address should be about how we can help you set up your giving process but should NOT include any specific information about pledge amounts, gift amounts, or any other confidential information from the individual sending the message.*

*Thank you for being a part of the family of The Church of the Village
and supporting the work and ministry of this community!*

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Thank you for pledging financial support to the life and ministry of our beloved community.

Thank you for the many ways your presence enhances our community and work together.

As you prayerfully discern your pledge for 2023, we invite you to be bold in your generosity as we continue this adventure together. Submit your pledge: <https://www.churchofthevillage.org/2023-stewardship-campaign>

Questions: Email giving@churchofthevillage.org

TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Friday mornings; 9:00am

Our weekly prayer group includes an inspirational reading, time to support one another, and prayers for ourselves, others, and events in the world. We gather via Zoom conference call Friday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00am (**Meeting ID: 850 0514 7319** **Passcode: 594909**). For more information, contact Deaconess Sarah Capers at smcapers99@gmail.com.

COTV ONLINE FITNESS

Tuesdays, 10:00 am ET



COTV Online Fitness with Lina now on Tuesdays at 10:00 am ET.

Join us via [Zoom!](#)

Meeting ID: 878 7016 4212 **Passcode:** fitness

L.O.V.E. (LGBTQA+ group)

2nd Sundays; 12:00pm ET following worship

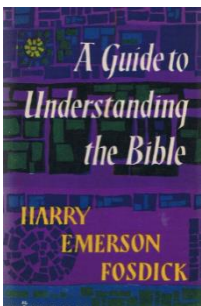


Our LGBTQIA+ group is re-imagined as L.O.V.E (love, openness, and validating expressions)! We will meet the second Sunday of each month after church for City Adventures — outdoor explorations around the neighborhood and times for connection. All are welcome as we create a safe space to bring our whole selves, learn from each other, and walk our journeys together. For more information, please email

PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org. Join Us via [Zoom](#).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Wednesdays; 6:00pm



Our next Bible Study is *A Guide to Understanding the Bible* by Harry Emerson Fosdick

Harry Emerson Fosdick presents a study of the development of Biblical ideas. We will study the ideas developed by Fosdick (Idea of God; Idea of Man; Idea of Right and Wrong; Idea of Suffering; Idea of Fellowship with God; Idea of Hospitality). This book presents a different perspective for studying scripture.

We would be delighted to have you join us. **Everyone is Welcome.**

The group meets Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Facilitated by Sarah Capers, Deaconess. Join us via Zoom! <http://zoom.us/j/713063594> or by phone: 646-876-9923; Meeting ID: **713 063 594** Passcode: **10011**

THE RED DOOR PLACE



Donations, in person, to the program can be made Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 9am to 3pm. Ring the bell on the red door on 13th street or call the number posted at the door.

Food Pantry: Tuesdays; 2pm - 5pm - BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Appointments are available via the [Plentiful App](#) (download from the play/app store). You can search for us, in the app, by name “The Red Door Place” or scroll through the list (towards the bottom) and our pantry will show. After registering on the app, you will receive a QR code - **BRING the QR code with you to your appointment**. Arrive within 5 minutes of your scheduled appointment and present your QR code for scanning.

If you do not have a QR code, you will not receive pantry. **Note:** Missed appointments can be rescheduled to a later open slot or the following Tuesday. If you have any questions call 347-497-9718 and ask for Teresa.

Community Meal: We will continue to hand out bags of food on Saturdays beginning around 11:30am. Guests may arrive earlier to get a place in line; we have chalk marks on the sidewalk at 6-foot intervals to indicate where people should stand at a safe distance.

THE RED DOOR PLACE – NEEDS MONEY FOR FOOD!

IF YOU WANT TO HELP, ask your employer, your family, your friends to GIVE! Put out an appeal on your Facebook page. Email people you think would be able to donate.

TO MAKE A DONATION, you can donate online using [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app. Or send checks made payable to Church of the Village and write The Red Door Place (TRDP) in the memo line. Mail to: Church of the Village, PO Box 167, New York, NY 10113.

GIVE TO THE CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE ON VANCO

The Church of the Village is now accessible via Vanco. [VANCO](#)'s simple online payment processing services and giving app make it easy to give when and where you want. Visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YQX3>.

BECOME A CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE PRAYER PARTNER

Each week, we receive many prayers through our website, the Red Door Place empowerment ministry, on prayer cards during worship, and from our Ministers of Care team. These prayers are distributed via email to our large team of **Prayer Partners** who lift them up to God. If you would like to pray for others, please email Deaconess Sarah Capers (smcapers99@gmail.com) with your interest. You can submit a prayer online at ChurchoftheVillage.org/prayer.

COTV WORSHIP VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK

It is always a deeper experience to be present with the worshiping community, but when you can't join us for Sunday worship, you can view the worship recording anytime at Facebook.com/ChurchoftheVillage/videos.

SERMON ARCHIVE

If you missed worship or want to read the sermon again, we post many of our past Sunday sermon manuscripts and worship bulletins on our website at ChurchoftheVillage.org/sermons. We encourage you to read and share them with others.

CHURCH OF THE VILLAGE COVID-19 PROTECTION POLICY

Updated September 23, 2022



From the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Church of the Village has been diligent about protecting everyone connected to our church community. We have followed guidelines offered by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the City and State of New York, as well as those shared by the NY Conference of the United Methodist Church. Our leadership has stayed on top of new developments and adjusted our policies periodically to fit evolving conditions.

We recognize that for our members, supporters, visitors, and staff who are in proximity to New York City or visit our building, the status of the pandemic has shifted dramatically. The rates of infection, hospitalizations, and especially deaths have fallen to very low levels. This does not mean they cannot go back up and we will continue to monitor the situation. In addition, mask requirements have been lifted for most public spaces, including public transportation in NYC.

Therefore, we have decided to lift our own mask requirement for entry to our church building. This applies to staff as well as members and to groups that rent or use space in our building.

We continue to strongly recommend that everyone be vaccinated and boosted to the highest extent for which you are eligible. The most recent bivalent booster is available to anyone age 12 or older (Pfizer) or 18 and older (Moderna). The bivalent boosters protect against the original Covid-19 virus strain and provide stronger protection against Omicron, which is the most widespread and transmissible variant. To find a location and schedule your vaccination or booster anywhere in the United States, [click here](#)! This is not for your protection only, but for the well-being of our community, our city, and the country.

Also, we strongly encourage those persons at higher risk for infection or hospitalization – especially those with underlying health conditions – to continue to take all appropriate safety measures like masking and social distancing. All of us need to self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance about self-isolation and testing (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

Finally, while not yet widespread, we encourage everyone to be alert to the rising number of cases of Monkeypox. Among those most at-risk are some members of the LGBTQ+ community and people living with HIV. However, this virus is not limited by gender or sexuality and can spread to anyone, anywhere, through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact. The Human Rights Campaign provides excellent resources on their [“What You Need to Know” web page](#).



How to Contact Key COTV Leaders

During the Coronavirus outbreak and beyond, we want to make sure our members and supporters know how to reach key staff and leaders in the Church of the Village.

Pastor Jeff Wells

Email: PastorJeff@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 9; (917) 604-5227

Pastor Alexis Lillie, Minister for Leadership & Congregational Development

Email: PastorAlexis@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 8; (719) 201-6535

Jorge Lockward, Minister of Worship Arts

Email: Jorge@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 ext. 7; (917) 723-0169

Teresa Concepción, Executive Program Director, The Red Door Place

Email: Teresa@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.5, (347) 497-9718

QuiShaun Hill, Administrative Associate, in the church office

Email: Office@churchofthevillage.org

Phone: (212) 243-5470 x.3

Martha Chapman, Chair, Vision & Ministry Council

Email: marthachapman62@gmail.com

Sarah Capers, Lay Leader

Email: scape131@aol.com

Monica Quintero, Chair, Ministers of Care

Email: quinteromm@gmail.com

Alfida Figueroa, Chair, Worship Committee

Email: figueroaalfida045@gmail.com