



*Nicolls Memorial
Presbyterian Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 29th, 2018

10:00 am

Our Mission

*To live out Christ's love
by nurturing spiritual growth and fellowship,
and by reaching out in faith and love.*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Loving God,
we come together to reconnect to you, the source of love.
When we are connected to one another, God lives in us.
Grafted again to the taproot of love in this time together,
we strengthen ourselves to reach out like branches
bearing good fruit to the world. Abide with us in this time,
O God, so that we will continue to abide in love now and always. Amen.

“The Gathering”

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

INTROIT

*Christ is arisen, arisen indeed. Gloria,
Gloria, in excelsis.
Christ is arisen, arisen indeed
Glory to God in the highest!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: George Lipinsky

L: Jesus is the true vine.

All: We are the branches.

L: People of the loving vine-grower, we gather here to seek
God’s care.

**All: Open your hearts so that God’s Spirit may tend us, and
that we may abide in love.**

HYMN – *“The Strife is O’er”*

#236

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: There are only two feelings - love and fear,
bring us into balance so that we may further your reign of love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God, you are the vine-grower and we are your branches.

We confess there are things in our lives that need to be removed and let go of in order for us to be our best and bear much fruit. We have let fear take control of our actions, we fear those who are different, we want to harm those who harm us.

You promise us that when we abide in you we will be bountiful and bear much fruit, yet there are times when we would rather go unchanged and unchallenged and be cast aside, rather than open our hearts to your transforming spirit. We recall and confess the times we have chosen impoverishment over bounty. Amen.

MOMENT FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: The promise of God is clear –
God sent Jesus into the world so that we might live.
When we abide in God, God abides in us.
When we love one another, God lives in us.
When we choose love, there is no fear.

**All: Therefore, let God’s loving word cleanse us
and free us of all that impoverishes our lives.
Open your hearts to receiving God’s bounty
and blessing, and be made fruitful.**

THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us share the Peace of Christ with one another.

Greet those around you with: *“The peace of Christ be with you.”*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE –

#591 (Refrain)

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah! Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah! Hallelujah! Hal-le-lu-jah!

“Engaging The Word”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: Source of all true wisdom, breathe calm into our hearts, and still all other voices but your own, that we may hear with the ears of our hearts to what you tell us in your Word, through the power of your Spirit. Amen.

The First Lesson -

Acts 8:26-40

pg. 892

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

We invite all children & youth to come forward.

RESPONSE –

#487 vs.2

Our ancient story we shall tell, till these our
Children know it well within their souls and
Minds and hearts, for this is where their journey starts.

The Gospel - John15:1-8

pg. 878

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – “Making Connections”

by: Rev. Naomi Kelly

***HYMN – “Like the Murmur of a Dove’s Song”**

#285

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

“Thanksgiving”

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** – *“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”*

#240 vs.1

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God longs for all of us to live bountiful lives.

We share these gifts from the bounty with which we are blessed,
in order that they may be a blessing to others. Amen.

“Sending”

***HYMN** – *“Let Us Talents & Tongues Employ”*

#526

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

We are the branches that seek to glorify God,
to bear much fruit,
to witness to God's love revealed among us,
to reveal the fullness of a life lived with compassion,
devoid of fear and hate.

Leave all impoverishment here and go out in joy,
for the spirit of the loving God abides with us
this day and evermore. Amen

***EXTROIT** – (all sing)

#600

Amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Notes and Announcements

Whatever your religious background and however you have come to be here, we welcome you to our fellowship in Niccolls Memorial Presbyterian Church. We hope you feel comfortable and will be strengthened in your walk with God. We invite you to join us for fellowship and sustenance in the Social Room following worship.

We begin our worship this day by remembering our baptism. Also, please notice the empty plate (paten) and cup (chalice) on the center of the Communion Table. These symbols speak to us of our hunger for Christ who feeds us at this table.

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Tina Yuckel if you or someone you know has a special need; please call her at 315-369-2823.

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY – Praying for others is a blessing and a privilege. If you know of someone who is in need of prayer, please ask if you may share his or her name and need with the prayer chain at Niccolls. If the response is yes, please call Sue Mahoney at 315-390-4025, and she will initiate the chain. All information is confidential and is not shared with anyone other than prayer chain members.

CHURCHES PRAYER CYCLE – The Presbyterian Church is connectional by design and practice. Every week we lift up in prayer a church or ministry within the Presbytery of Utica. This week we pray for: First Presbyterian Church, Lowville.

STAFF OPENING – Our church has a paid staff opening. We are looking for a part time Music Director who will lead our singing church. Must be able to play either organ and/or piano, direct our Sunday choir and be willing to work with our pastor and worship committee in creatively taking our church to wonderful places in worship through music. For inquiries into this position, please e-mail us at niccollschurch@gmail.com or call the church office at 315-369-3475.

Calendar of Events Week of April 30th – May 6th

Monday	10am-12pm	Mission Boutique Sorting
Tuesday	9:30am	Midweek Faith and Fellowship (Bible Study)
Wednesday	10am-12pm	Mission Boutique Sorting
	10am-2pm	Senior Activity Program
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	8pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	4:30pm-5:30pm	Weaving Home Meditation & Movement
Friday	10am-12pm	Mission Boutique Open
	7pm-8:30pm	Mission Boutique Open
Saturday	10am-12pm	Mission Boutique Open
Sunday	7:30am & 10:00am	Worship Service
	9am	Choir Rehearsal

*Niccolls Memorial Presbyterian Church
PO Box 605, 228 Crosby Blvd. Old Forge, NY 13420
Office Hours: Monday Friday: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Phone: 369-3475; E-mail: niccollschurch@gmail.com
Website: www.niccolls.org www.Facebook.com/niccollschurch
Sunday Service Broadcast WBRV-900 AM, 101.3 FM, WLLG-FM 99.3
Listen live online from anywhere in the world at themoose.net*

Guest Pastor – Rev. Naomi Kelly
Pastor Emeritus – Rev. James L. Ulrich
Organists – Susan Rundell
Ushers – Dawn Timm, Deb Graydon

For immediate Pastoral needs, please contact: Rev. Naomi Kelly home:315-369-6614 or cell:315-369-8253