**Sermon for**

**Sunday, May 10th, 2020**

**Mother's Day**

**Isaiah 49:14-16**

God is for us.

He will rejoice over us, and we will rest in his love.

He will sing and be joyful about every one of us.                  (Zephaniah 3:17).

God is for us. Turn to the sidelines.

            That's God cheering us on our Journey.

Look past the finish line.

            That's God applauding our steps.

Listen for him in the bleachers.

            He is shouting each of our names.

When we are too tired to continue, He will carry us.

When we are too discouraged to fight,

            He will pick us up, dust us off, and put us on our feet again.

God is for us.

If he had a calendar, our birthdays would be circled.

If he drove a car, our names would be on his bumper.

If there is a tree in heaven, he has carved each of our names in the bark.

“Can a mother forget her children? What a bizarre question.

Can you mothers imagine feeding your infant and then later asking,

“What was that baby's name?”

No. We have seen how mothers care for their young children.

They stroke the hair, they touch the face, they sing the name over and over.

Can a mother forget? No.

But – even if she could forget, God promises:  "I will never forget you."

God is for us.

Our parents may have forgotten us, our teachers may have neglected us,

       our siblings may be ashamed of us, our neighbors may not care about us.

But within the reach of our prayers, is the maker of the stars, the creator of the universe.

God is for us.

Not "may be," not "has been," not "was," not "will be."

But: "God is!"

He is for us. Today. At this hour. At this minute.

No need to wait in line or come back tomorrow.

He is with us now, and always.

He could not be closer than he is at this second.

His loyalty won't increase if we behave better; nor lessen if we are worse.

Nothing we can ever do can make him stop loving us.

He is for us.

When we are worried, and lonely, and confused, he is with us, and he is loving us.

In the tough times he places his hand on our shoulder and says:

"You are something Special. I will never leave you or forget you.

            I am with you always, even to the end of time."

During the tough times, we can remember we are never all alone.

**AMEN**