

Message from the Pastor



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Rev. Dr. Vance P. Ross, Senior Pastor

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Dear Central Graduates,

This has been a season unparalleled. A global virus dominated the post-modern world with virulence unmatched. Almost simultaneously, racism re-surfaced with all its heinous consequences. Horrified by these twin scourges, the world reeled in pain and in caution.

No one has been more impacted than your class. These diseases hijacked this seminal moment in your lives— graduation. This monumental time you anticipated, for years, was stolen.

Yet, your class stood up to be counted. Protesting with vigor, sheltering with disappointed, yet conscious nobility, you transformed the moment, salvaging hope from despair. Your class stood up, responded to the moment for health, love and justice.

Your awards, accomplishments, honors and triumphs include how, in this disastrous era, tragedy became triumph. COVID 19 started and slowed. Racial bigotry bore new scrutiny. Yes, there was sadness, regret, loss and disappointment but your class—your beautiful and proud class of 2020—prove the sacred audacity of Psalm 30:5b (NIV): “weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.” You evidenced this verse, profoundly.

So, we thank you. Thank you for your relentless effort. Thank you for your perseverance. Thank you for the fresh, bold power to achieve in and beyond graduation, through considerable loss and into a dynamic future. You now commence to a new chapter of life, with novel challenges and incredible opportunities. God brought you through this time. God will yet bring you through whatever you face.

I join Central in being enormously delighted in you!

Congratulations!

Pastor Vance P. Ross