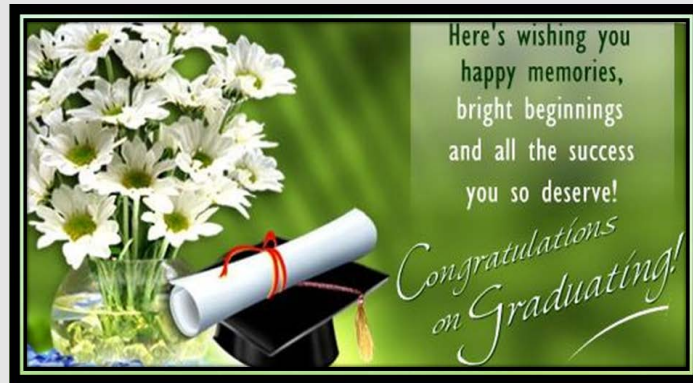


# Graduate Sunday 2020



" EXALT THE LORD...EQUIP THE SAINTS...EMBRACE  
THE COMMUNITY "

**Central United Methodist Church**  
**501 Mitchell Street**  
**Atlanta, GA**

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY:**

**CENTRAL'S HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTRY**

**Rev. Dr. Vance P. Ross, Senior Pastor**

**Rev. Angela Johnson, Assistant Pastor**

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

**"A Christ-Centered, Radically Inclusive, Intergenerational congregation that uses its Spiritual Gifts to meet the needs of our unique surrounding Community."**



The  
United  
Methodist  
Church

## Message from the Pastor



501 Mitchell Street, Southwest  
 Atlanta, Georgia 30314-4723  
 Office (404)524-4263 Email: [Info@centralumcatl.org](mailto:Info@centralumcatl.org)  
 Rev. Dr. Vance P. Ross, Senior Pastor

June 2020

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

## Message from the Assistant Pastor

Graduates of 2020,

You are AMAZING! You have made it through four years of classes, exams, sports, clubs, jobs, and so much more. And, of course, you have the unique distinction of finishing strong during a global pandemic! Again, YOU ARE AMAZING!

As you prepare for the next phase of your journey (college, graduate school, military, work), I encourage you to remember Joshua 1:9. ***“Be strong and courageous! Do not be terrified or dismayed (intimidated), for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*** *There will be many firsts and through them all, God is with you. There will be times when things are hard, God is with you. There will be times of joy, God is with you. You are NEVER alone. Not only is God with you; your Central UMC family is with you too! We will continue to pray with and for you. We are here to celebrate and encourage you. We are your safe place.*

My final piece of advice is to “Dream big, work hard, stay focused, and surround yourself with good people.” And...HAVE FUN!

I could not be more proud of you. CONGRATULATIONS!

Blessings,

Pastor Angie

Rev. Angela Johnson  
Youth & Young Adult Pastor  
Central United Methodist Church

## Message from the Higher Education Ministry

You've made it! Regardless of whether you are being promoted from Kindergarten, Primary, Secondary, or Post-Secondary school, this can be both an exciting and uncertain time in your life. The good thing is you did not have to make it on your own. God will always help you carry your burdens. It could be through emotional and financial support from your parents, prayers of a grandmother, sage wisdom of a grandfather, bonds shared between friends, or encouragement from your Central UMC family. You will never be alone.

Yes, it is an exciting time; you are off to a new phase in your life. There is so much promise ahead of you. If you did not like the way you were perceived in the last chapter of your journey, you can reinvent yourself going forward. However, we hope that you were satisfied and continue striving to be the best you, that you can be.

Undoubtedly, it is also a time of uncertainty. With that comes anxiety, apprehension, anger, and doubt. While we don't want to give those feelings power, we also don't want to pretend they may not exist. Your feelings are real, don't deny them, but it is best to work through them. You are not alone. You made it before, and you will make it again.

You could look at COVID-19 as something that ruined your life; but, a better way to look at it is, *no other graduating class will be remembered the way that you will*. This is uniquely your experience. You did not ask for it, could not have dreamt it, but you can "own" it! Why did God allow this to happen? We cannot answer that, but you can ask God what He would want you to do in spite of it.

A new chapter in your journey can mean leaving old friends behind, but it can also mean so much more. You have the chance to move on from that bully that gave you grief. You have the chance to make that team of which you always wanted to be a part. You have a chance to capture that superlative title that you "deserved". You have the chance to meet that special someone with which you may spend the rest of your life. You have a chance to design your future. And "yes", you have a chance to "get right with God" if that has been heavy on your heart.

We tend to look towards "pomp & circumstance" as symbolism of graduation; however, in its original context, it was intended as a "coronation of a king". Let us look at this moment as your coronation of who you are meant to be. We are with you on your journey.

*With Love and Pride,*

**C. Wayne Copeland, Ph.D., Krystal Evans (Chair), Christy Garrison Ph.D., and Natalie Hope (Co-Chair)**

**CUMC Higher Education Ministry Committee**

TO THE GRADUATE...

Be strong  
and  
Courageous.

Do not be afraid;  
do not be discouraged,

for the  
Lord your God  
will be with you

Wherever you go.

-Joshua 1:9

# Central United Methodist Church

June 14, 2020

11:00 AM

## Graduate Sunday Virtual Service

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Color: **Green**

<b>Greeting</b>	Pastor Ross
<b>Song</b>	Asha Anderson
<b>Welcome</b>	Krystal Evans
<b>Scripture</b>	Miriam and Caleb Chisholm (Romans 5:1-8 from the lectionary)
<b>Prayer:</b>	Christy Garrison Harrison
<b>Occasion</b>	Jasmyn Thrash
<b>Song</b>	Shereen Kanoy
<b>The Preached Word</b>	Min. Christy Robinson
<b>The Graduates</b>	(videos)
<b>Giving to Young People's Ministry</b>	Reverend Johnson
<b>Benediction</b>	Pastor Ross





**Name**

Asha Anderson

**Parents/family**

Max and Aungelique Anderson; sisters Nia and Maesa

**Grandparents**

Eleanor Proctor and the late Emmet Proctor  
Dr. Catherine King-Clark & Rupert Clarke and the late Johnnie Anderson

**School**

Charles R Drew Charter School

**Academic Honors/Award**

- ◆ Honor Roll with Distinction
- ◆ Honor Roll
- ◆ Highest Achievement in Computer Science
- ◆ Governor Honors nominee (Drama)

**Community Service Involvement**

- ◆ The Activist Theatre Company (volunteer and help with productions | 2018-2020)
- ◆ Food Action Ministries (prepare food and clothing for homeless | 2017-2018)
- ◆ Toy for Tots (donate and package toys for children during Christmas | 2017-2018)
- ◆ Feeding Homeless with Jack and Jill (make sandwiches for homeless | 2016-2020)
- ◆ SEEK program (engineering camp for 3rd-5th grade girls | 2018)

**Experiences**

- ◆ Study abroad in England and Scotland for drama
- ◆ Sang in choir competitions in Florida, Chicago, and Georgia
- ◆ Participated on a drama tour in southern states performing plays written by Aubrey William

**School Clubs/Organizations**

- ◆ National Honors Society, Beta Club (Secretary)
- ◆ Student Government Association(10th grade Vice President;11th grade President)
- ◆ Young Black Excellence Club
- ◆ All Star Team (selective group of students who make events and decisions for our 2020 class)
- ◆ Varsity Volleyball
- ◆ Drew Charter Chorus (Soprano Section 2 Leader)
- ◆ Gay Straight Alliance (Straight Representative)
- ◆ All City Chorus
- ◆ Honor Chorus
- ◆ The Activist Theatre Company
- ◆ Drew Charter Drama Club
- ◆ Varsity Basketball
- ◆ Author of The Whitening (found on Amazon)
- ◆ Coded my own website using CSS;JAVAscript;HTML
- ◆ Journalism club( completed stories on the PGA Golf Tournament)

**Next Step after Graduation**

- **Howard University**



**Name:** Jordan Alexander Walker

### **Parents/Family**

Derek and Katrina “Kim” M. Merritt Walker ; Derek “Jay” & Maya

Normarene C. Merritt and the late Hope Merritt, Jr.

Joseph and Deborah Wingfield

**School:** Decatur High School

### **Organizations and Awards:**

#### Organizations

National Honor Society

Varsity Baseball

Central Youth Ministry

Central Youth Usher

Former Central Acolyte

#### Awards

2019-2020 Gatorade Georgia Baseball Player of the Year

2019-2020 Montlick and Associates WSB-TV Athlete of the Year

2019 Perfect Game All American Classic Participant

2019 MLB High School All-Star Game MVP

2019 Metro Atlanta High School All Star

2019 Georgia High School First Team All-State

2019 Dekalb County All-County First Team and Player of the Year

### **Next Step after Graduation**

Committed to attend **Duke University**, and Major in Finance

Prospect for the **Major League Baseball** Draft in June 2020.



**Name:** Jasmyn Noelle Thrash

**Parents/family:**

Joi Thrash/ Ronald Thrash; siblings Jayla, Jason and Kaylin

**Grand Parents:** Sherole and the late Maurice Thrash

Bettye and Alonzo Brewer

**School:** Charles R. Drew Charter School

**Organizations:**

National Honor Society

Beta Club

Varsity Girls Soccer Team

Varsity Cheer Team

Book Buddies Mentoring Program

Dance Ensemble

Young Black Excellence Club

Amazons Sports- Club Soccer Team

**Awards/ Honors:**

Five Strong Scholarship Award- Full Tuition Scholarship (4 years)

Tom and Ann Cousins Scholarship Award

Fisk University Academic Scholars Award

Achieve Atlanta Scholarship Award

Honor Roll

Community Service Award

2020 Homecoming Court

**Future Plans:**

To attend **Fisk University** and Major in Nursing with a concentration in labor and delivery



**Name**

Marae Harrell

**School**

The Westminster Schools

**Parents/Family**

Antonio and Marita Harrell, sister of Alyse Harrell

**Grandparents**

Howard and Margie Roberts.

Joseph and Patricia Newton; Oscar and Shirley Wells

**Organizations/Activities/Awards**

While at Westminster, Marae participated in a number of special activities and amazing opportunities however a few she is most proud of are:

Being chosen to take a Marine Biology class in Hawaii

Traveling to New York City twice to study Innovative Interior Design and Theatre Arts.

Being the Head manager of Westminster's Diving Team,

And a founding member of Searles Ethnics Affinity Group and the Book Worms Club.

Marae was also very actively involved in the theatre Department where she was inducted into the Thespian society.

Her senior year, Marae became head of the Theatre Makeup team, a member of the International Honors Thespian Society and she helped create a Theatre Design Program for Westminster.

**Next Steps after Graduation and Major**

In the fall, she will attend The **University of Kentucky** where she will participate in the Agriculture Living and Learning program while pursuing a double major in Equine and Animal Science.

Marae wants to say THANK YOU to her Central family, she knows she couldn't have done it without you. She loves you all. Marae also wants to give a special shout out to Ms. Susan Gibson because it all began with Marae portraying Ms. Susan in Central's production of Angels.



# *Congratulations, Caleb!*

Please join us in celebrating  
Caleb's achievement.

**Caleb's future plans include  
attending Kennesaw State University  
in the Fall where he will major in  
Finance.**



## Caleb Chisholm

### **Name**

Caleb Mitchell Chisholm

### **Parents /family**

Donalthan and Effuah Chisholm; Siblings, Hannah-Marie and Miriam

### **Grandparents/Family**

The late Mitchell and Alice Chisholm  
Robert and Rosaline Gray and the late Romelle Gray.

### **School**

Martin Luther King Jr. High School

### **Organizations and Awards**

#### Organizations

Varsity Baseball

Yearbook

Journalism

#### Awards

Honor Roll - Freshman, Sophomore and Junior Year.

### **Next Step after Graduation (also major if known)**

Caleb's future plans include attending **Kennesaw State University** in the Fall, where he will major in Finance.



**Name:**

Anna West

**Parents/family**

Michelle West and Steven & Lisa West;  
Kamara West, Samuel West, and Aria Amith.

**Grandparents:**

Carolyn & Dean West  
Richard Hanks and the late Paula Hanks

**School:**

Charles R Drew Charter School

**Organizations and Awards:**

Highest Honors all four years of high school,  
Member of National Honor Society,  
Beta Club, Varsity Soccer,  
Urban Youth Harp Ensemble,  
Young Black Excellence

**Steps after Graduation:**

Attend **Fisk University** as an **Ella Mae** Provost Scholar as an English major



**Name:**

Christopher Jordan

**Parents/family**

Harold and Michelle Jordan ; sister's Rachel and Katy

**Grandparents**

Kenneth and Jennifer Harris,

Harold and Geraldine Jordan

**School :**

Dekalb School of the Arts.

**Activities and Awards:**

During his high school career, he interned with Vox Communications, Reimagined ATL, Allied Atlanta, and Arthouse. These opportunities allowed him to attend and document premier screenings for Disney and Sony Picture classics like Toy Story and the Lion King, as well as photoshoots with local artist T.I.

Chris has written movie reviews, made award winning short films, and had his work published in various outlets. In the fall, he will be attending **UCLA** with a major in film.



**Name:**

Jeremiah Grant

**Parent**

Raishlyn Grant

**School :**

Westlake High School

Jeremiah's passion and career choice is in Media, Film Production and Entertainment. He's an Artist in graphics, illustration, Film Production, Writing and editing.

**Continuing Education**

Fort Valley State University and later SCAD



*class of 2020*

MIRIAM ELISABETH CHISHOLM  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL •  
MAY 10, 2020



**Name**

Miriam Elisabeth Chisholm

**Parents/family**

Donalthan and Effuah Chisholm; Siblings, Hannah-Marie and Caleb

**Grandparents**

The late Mitchell and Alice Chisholm

Robert and Rosaline Gray and the late Romelle Gray.

**School**

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Organizations and Awards****HONORS**

Harvey E. Beech Outstanding Senior Award

Order of the Golden Fleece

Leadership Delta

ACC Leadership Symposium Student Representative

Member of Honors Carolina

Ron Brown Captain

**CAMPUS AND LEADERSHIP INVOLVEMENT**

Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated-President

STEMinority- Co-Founder

Carolina Pediatric Attention, Love and Support - Treasurer and Volunteer

Minority Advisory Program- Peer Mentor

Supplemental Instructor- BIO 252 (Anatomy and Physiology)

**Next Step after Graduation**

Miriam graduated as an Honors Laureate with Distinction from the University of **North Carolina at Chapel Hill**. She received a BSPH in Nutrition with a minor in Chemistry. After graduation, Miriam is taking a gap year before applying to medical school and returning to Chapel Hill as a Chancellor's Fellow at UNC.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Resident Advisor at Carolina Housing

Research Assistant at the Gillings Innovation Lab

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

UNC Hospitals Volunteer

CHEMpossible Assistant Instructor



**AGGIE**

**Class of 2019**

**PRIDE**

**Name**

Julian Gordon

**Parents/family**

James and Julie Gordon; brother Jamal

**Grandparents**

The late James and Vera Knowles

Benjamin and Mary Gordon

**School**

North Carolina A&T State University

Bachelor M.S. Physics

**After Graduation**

Currently has an internship with Sol Nation and an internship with the

United Methodist Church; Discerning possibility for continuing studies



**Name**

Onye Crews

**Parent**

Min. Christy Robinson

Edward Sterling Crews Jr.

**Grandparents**

Ray and the late Arlane Robinson

Ed and Montez Crews

Great Grandparent : Wanda Robinson

**Association:**

Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society

**School:**

Tennessee State University

B.A. Family Consumer Sciences concentration: Childhood development and Family relations.

**After Graduation**

I plan to pursue graduate studies in the area of Educational Psychology in order to support children with learning differences with their academic and emotion needs.



COPELAND

**Name:**

Clinton Phipps Copeland

**Parents/family**

C. Wayne and Terri Copeland

sister, Kennedy L.

**Grandparents:**

Nathaniel & Jeannette Copeland

John & Nina Phipps

**Education:**

Army Boot Camp; Gunnery and Tank specialist

**Next step:** Stationed in Afghanistan

## Other 2020 Graduates acknowledgements:

1. Jade Davis  
(West Lake High)
2. Larry Love Jr.  
(North Atlanta High)

Next step:

University of Central  
Florida

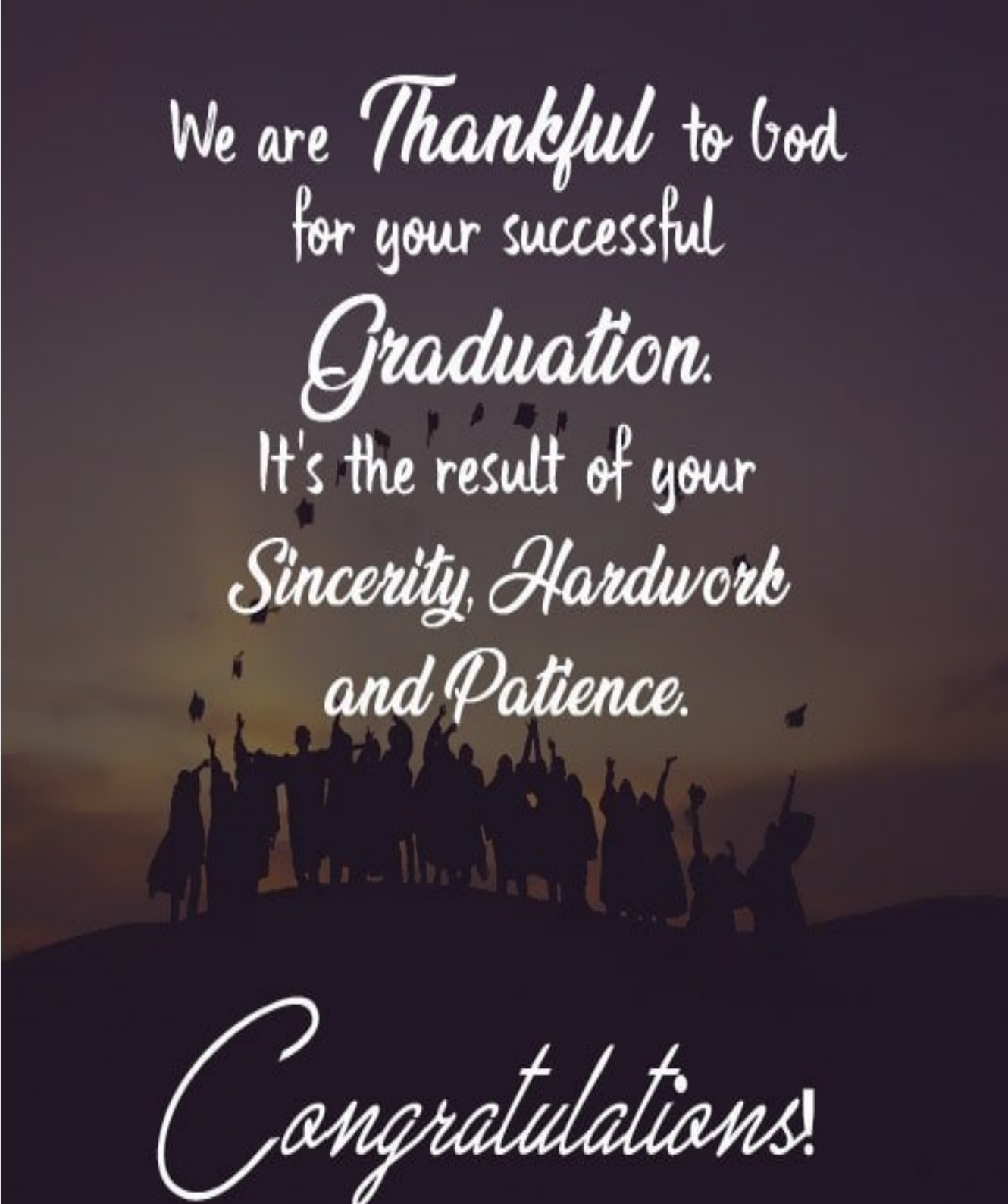
3. Alyse Lowery  
(Clark Atlanta University)





*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

THANK YOU to Michael Browning and Min. Reed Howard for their hard work in editing and making our virtual service possible. God Bless



We are Thankful to God  
for your successful  
Graduation.  
It's the result of your  
Sincerity, Hardwork  
and Patience.

Congratulations!