

PASTORAL PRAYER

Mr. Jason Bradshaw

“Heavenly Father, we thank You that by the finished work of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we can come to You with confidence, knowing that You delight to hear us. We are humbled by this truth when we behold Your holiness through Your word, for You dwell in unapproachable light, and no eye has seen, nor can see You. We thank You for the Gospel, which teaches us that Christ, being the image of the invisible God, was pleased to be born of a virgin, and dwell among us, to live a perfect life, die for our sins, and be raised from the dead by the Spirit, in order that we would be reconciled to You by faith and made alive by the Spirit. When, through the eyes of faith, we behold the glory of the triune God, we are struck with awe and wonder. We rightly see our sin as the enemy it is and so we take a few moments now to privately confess it to You, so that our fellowship this morning may be unhindered and unbroken.

.....private confession.....

We thank You, Lord, that when we confess our sin, You are faithful and just to forgive us our sin—all of it—and to cleanse us from all of our unrighteousness. May we see our need and run to You—not just this morning, but throughout the day and day by day.

We pray for the people of Truth Point Church. Though we are hindered from gathering together this morning, we know that You will meet us where we are. Would You unite us firm in the faith, and protect us from the temptation toward callousness, bitterness, and judgmentalism during this trial. Strengthen us all for the days ahead. Nourish us by the Word. Keep us close to You by prayer. And may each of us have a stronger desire for Your word, to know You, *to really know You*, according to Your word, and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Would You grant time, amid a busy and hectic week, to slow down and meditate upon Your precious promises to us, that we would be encouraged to press on. We pray not only for our church, but other faithful churches in Palm Beach County, and so we lift up Christ Community Church and their pastor, Peter Bartuska. Would You continue to encourage their hearts, increase their love for You, and equip them be effective witnesses of Your great love and mercy in their community. Bless the work of their ministry and keep their lampstand burning. As we pray for missions this morning, we lift up Hernando Saenz as he serves as the Hispanic American Ministries Coordinator. May he be a blessing to that ministry, and as they share Your word, may they see much fruit from their faithful efforts.

We pray for all people this morning, from every tribe, tongue, and nation, the rich and the poor throughout the world, who are suffering from the Coronavirus. Whether it is a present danger or one yet far off, it is on the minds and hearts of people everywhere. We are beginning to realize that we will all be affected one way or another. We pray for those who are currently suffering and those who will suffer from COVID-19, that You would draw near to them to heal them and to comfort them. May those already in Christ feel Your presence and strength in their weakness, and may those who do not know You be drawn to You in their affliction and find forgiveness and healing in Your wings. May this pandemic cause us to come face to face with the reality of our weakness and frailty and run to You for refuge in the power of Your might! As businesses begin to shut down, we pray for families who cannot afford to miss work and those who may work but have no child care and ask that You would provide for their needs. Would You help us to bear one another's burdens. May Your people use this strange time as an opportunity to show forth Your love and love our neighbors by being aware of the hurting and fearful people around us. May we remember our elderly neighbors who can't drive and offer to help, and may we share from our surplus, if we have it, with those who have little in this time. Help us to be sensitive, wise, and bold with the good news of Jesus Christ.

We pray for our leaders, both in the Church, and those in civil government, that You would supply wisdom and guide them in enacting effective plans. Lastly, would You grant us, by Your grace, to overcome fear and stand firm knowing that You are sovereign over all things. Lord, may that truth be a constant comfort to our anxious hearts. Keep us from panic and anxiety, yet may we not be naive in our thinking, but clear-headed and sober minded going forward.”

Finally, we pray the Lord's Prayer as Jesus taught:

“Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours in the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.”

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 34:1-10

1. I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continuously be in my mouth.
2. **My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.**
3. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!
4. **I sought the LORD and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**
5. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.
6. **This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.**
7. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.
8. **Oh, tasted and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!**
9. Oh, fear the LORD you His saints, for those who fear Him have no lack!
10. **The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**