



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

Adopted by the Vestry of All Saints Church, Pasadena, on February 7, 2012

Whereas:

At the center of our life as people of faith is the belief that the image of God dwells within each person, and therefore each life is sacred and of infinite worth;

We believe that all people are worthy of redemption and capable of rehabilitation;

Our sacred text repeatedly calls for us to overcome evil with good, and to transform hatred with love, to seek justice and not revenge;

Jesus challenged the death penalty of his culture through teaching and example;

The Ten Commandments teach, "Thou shalt not kill," putting a profound respect for human life at the center of Judeo-Christian teaching;

Whereas:

The Episcopal Church in the United States of America has opposed capital punishment since 1958 (1);

Whereas:

The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America has called upon "all members of the Church to strengthen efforts to abolish the death penalty (2)," and;

Whereas:

The Vestry of All Saints Church passed a Resolution calling for a moratorium on executions in California in 2002, and as a parish has historically taken an unequivocal position in opposition to the death penalty;

Whereas:

The death penalty has not been shown to be a deterrent to violent crimes;

The death penalty is not, has not been and probably cannot be, applied equitably and fairly;

Persons on death row have been exonerated, leading to the possibility that innocent individuals have been and could again be put to death;

Violence in our society cannot be reduced by more violence;

The death penalty is imposed disproportionately on people of color and the poor;

The financial cost of imposing the death penalty is significantly higher than the cost of life without parole, raising profound moral questions about stewardship of public funds;

Be it therefore Resolved:

That the Vestry of All Saints Church, Pasadena, stands in opposition to the death penalty in all cases and calls for the abolition of the death penalty in California and in our nation.

Be it further Resolved:

That the Vestry of All Saints Church, Pasadena, stands with the families and friends of murder victims as they struggle to redeem such tragedies in their lives.

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1. The Episcopal Church in the United States of America has long opposed capital punishment (since 1958), and at the 2000 General Convention reaffirmed the Church's opposition to the death penalty: "In our baptismal covenant, we respect the dignity of every human being, and commit ourselves to strive for justice and peace among all people. The Church will continue to decry the revenge of state-sanctioned homicides. We abhor the racism and economic injustices evident in our criminal justice system."
 2. The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America has called upon "all members of the Church to strengthen efforts to abolish the death penalty; (2) and, reaffirmed the Church's opposition to the death penalty: "In our baptismal covenant, we respect the dignity of every human being, and commit ourselves to strive for justice and peace among all people. The Church will continue to decry the revenge of state-sanctioned homicides. We abhor the racism and economic injustices evident in our criminal justice system."