



Death Penalty Sunday Materials - South Carolina

Greetings, friends. I am thankful you've taken some time to engage these materials. They come out of a place of lament for the state of the death penalty in South Carolina, and they come out of a desire to support the churches there on the ground.

If your church is interested in hosting a "Death Penalty Sunday" – whether that be an entire themed Sunday service, a single Sunday event, or another event on any day of the week – these materials are meant to spark ideas and give you the data, stories, and theology to faithfully reflect on the death penalty in South Carolina and how Christians can respond.

In John 17 Jesus spoke of his longing for his church to be one, and that spirit is growing among Christians who want to call for a consistent ethic of life, where Christians advocate for all lives to be allowed their natural end. The death penalty disrupts that and acts as the ultimate rejection of a belief that God can change people, whether that be the person who brought the harm or those who were harmed.

We believe in a God who can redeem and heal, even from the most chaotic and confusing of situations. We ourselves worship an arrested, tried, and executed Savior. And we worship a risen Lord who has conquered death by his own death on the cross.

We now live in the light of Jesus' life, and so we can and must reject state-sponsored death exacted in our name.

These materials are meant to bring you ideas and be a starting point. These are Google Docs so that it is as easy as possible for you to copy and tailor these resources to fit the needs of your congregation.

Please feel free to print, email, or otherwise send these materials as needed. Keep in mind places where there are hyperlinks so that you include the full URL if you print anything.

If you use these materials, I would love to know about it as well as how they are received. I am also available to walk with you for any assistance you might need as you prepare or present these resources. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any thoughts, feelings, or questions.

Blessings on you as you take a bold and necessary step to love God and love others.

Sam Heath

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam A Heath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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- **Faith & Facts Sheets**
 - [The Death Penalty in the United States](#)
 - [The Death Penalty in South Carolina](#)
 - [The Bible & the Death Penalty](#)
 - [The Christian Faith & the Death Penalty](#)
 - [Links for Deeper Reading](#)
- [Ways to Take Action](#)
- [Sign Up Sheets](#)
- [Flier or Bulletin Insert](#)
- [Event Ideas & Options](#)