



Sample Prayer

Let us pray. Loving God, be with us as we pray for all those affected by violence. We pray for victims of violent deaths.

We pray for healing for their families and friends. Comfort and heal all those whose loved ones have died through violence in California.

We pray for men and women on California's death row waiting to die a violent death. We pray for their family and friends — for their comfort and consolation.

We pray for a spirit of repentance and redemption in the world, making us forgiving and forgiven people of God.

We remember our own acts of violence and hatred — as individuals, as part of our cultures, and as a nation. Forgive us, loving God.

We pray for our Nation and the State of California to bring an end to the death penalty.

We pray that all those who do not see the injustice and futility of the death penalty might be moved by our words and actions; that they read and reflect on our strong and bold statement of faith relating to the death penalty; and by God's mercy come to a change of heart, turning vengeance into clear thinking and hardness of heart into compassion.

Amen.