

My name is Joshua Hill, I live in Cape Elizabeth. I am an Episcopal priest and a cis-gender heterosexual male. I oppose the erasure of rights and protections for my transgender friends, family members, and beloved ones in my faith community.

I am here today to say I love them. And to attest to their human dignity, and the biblical idea of justice: serving first those who need it most. I am here to stand with them because they constantly face social expulsion and the terror of harm simply for daring to find the peace and happiness others enjoy freely.

These kneejerk proposals ignore their rights. Trans people are equal citizens of this state. Any proposal about bathrooms or sports or names must begin with a foundational commitment their safety and dignity. These bills fail terribly in this regard.

My faith calls me not only to cherish and respect the dignity of all people but also to cherish and protect all God has created.

Trans people are created in the image and likeness of God. No act of the state can override that.

Good Friday was 2 weeks ago. Jesus of Nazareth, a perfect man, was executed for political convenience. A similar expediency is working in these proposals today. State-sponsored erasure of the vulnerable is antithetical to gospel of Jesus and to his commandment to love your neighbor as you love yourself.

Our highest and best ideals urge us to reject these careless and immoral measures. Thank you.

The Rev. Joshua Hill
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