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## THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

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*As Jesus is baptised, the Spirit of God rests visibly on him, marking him out as the One who will save his people.*

Let us attune our hearts to the God who loves us.

God of love,  
we pray for all those who are newly baptised,  
or who have recently found that you are real;  
we pray for all in ordained and lay ministries,  
and for those sensing a special calling.  
Help us all to listen to your guiding.

*Silence*

In God:  
**all things work together for good.**

God of power,  
we pray for those who are in authority  
and in positions of influence and responsibility;  
may they be earthed in humility, courageous in integrity,  
and mindful of the need to serve.

*Silence*

In God:  
**all things work together for good.**

God of mercy,  
we call to mind those with whom we share  
the work and leisure of our life;  
we pray for those we treasure and those we battle with,  
and ask you to breathe into all our relationships  
the forgiving love which cleanses and heals.

*Silence*

In God:  
**all things work together for good.**

God of wholeness,  
we remember those who are aching today  
in body, mind or spirit;  
knowing that nothing is unredeemable,  
we ask that you will bring good  
even out of these barren places.

*Silence*

In God:  
**all things work together for good.**

God of life,  
we pray for those whose earthly lives have ended;  
we remember those who have died  
violently and tragically, suddenly and unprepared.  
We give you thanks for lives well lived  
and for happy memories.  
May they rest in the eternal peace of heaven.

*Silence*

In God:  
**all things work together for good.**

God of faithfulness,  
we thank you for the way  
you always keep your promises  
and never let us down.

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers**  
**for the sake of your Son,**  
**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**