Table of Contents

Preface

1. Origins
Speaking of JESUS
Meeting in God: Beyond self-absorption
In prayer
Re-imaging JESUS, re-imaging ourselves
"Those who are right"
The difference between self-righteousness and right relation
Self-absorbed spirituality
Who is JESUS CHRIST to those who are right?
Loneliness as a root of God, JESUS, and right relation
Suffering, evil, and human impatience
A white Southern Christian girlchild from the "muddled middle"

2. Speaking with Authority
The language of this book
Spiritual authority and knowledge of God
Theological imagination
Postmodern origins: Pitfalls and possibilities

3. Our Power in Mutual Relation
The problem with authoritarian power
Mutual relation: Can it be?
God is relational power
Thinking about "power"
But who are "we"?
And he is fully human and fully creaturely, and so are we
It is calling us to God
She is calling us to embody the (trinitarian) image of God
He is calling us to be holy
And yet...

4. Evil as Betrayal of Mutuality
Thinking about evil Seeking answers to tough questions
Obedience to the Father = the "right" answer
Sin, evil, and fear
God and evil
JESUS and evil
The temptation to betray: Evil generating evil
Fear of our power in relation as root of evil: Peter’s denial
Intolerance of ambiguity as root of evil: Rejecting the sacred mysteries
Denial as root of evil: The rich man
Lack of compassion and willingness to do violence as root of evil: The "Holy Innocents"
Living in sin, responding to evil

5. The Passion of Jesus: Beyond Moralism
Moralism as a spiritual problem
What is passion?
Knowing the body as source of passion
Passionate vision
Passion as coming out for justice-love
Passion as solidarity with the poor, outcast, marginalized
Boundary breaking as passionate godding
Faith as basic resource of human passion
The limits of passion
Passion: Hologram of real presence
Passion: Ousia (essence) of incarnation, way of atonement

6. Learning Forgiveness: Way of Compassion
Several critical assumptions
Imaging atonement
The problem with the Christian atonement tradition
Patriarchal logic and blood sacrifice
Through the eyes of God
JESUS CHRIST as adversary
What forgiveness is
Is repentance absolutely necessary?
Compassion and nonviolence: A spiritual path
Compassion, nonviolence, and loneliness
What keeps forgiveness from being idealistic?

Epilogue

Liturgical Resources: Celebrating Resurrection
Blessing the Bread: A Litany for Many Voices
A Eucharistic Prayer
Variations on a Sufi Prayer
Blessing
The Great Thanksgiving: A Rite Based on the Song of Mary
A Eucharistic Litany of Mutuality and Solidarity

Notes

Selected Resources

Acknowledgments

Index