Healing the Divide
Healing the Divide
Recovering Christianity’s Mystic Roots

AMOS SMITH

Foreword by
LEONARD SWEET

Afterword by
RICHARD ROHR

RESOURCE Publications • Eugene, Oregon
Dedicated to my confidant, teacher, best friend, spouse, and mother to our children,
Cristianne Glenn Smith
For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

—Colossians

It is in the paradox itself, the paradox which was and is still a source of insecurity, that I have come to find the greatest security.

—Thomas Merton

For Christ is our peace; who, in the flesh, has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall.

—Ephesians

Out of Africa came the Garden of Eden.

—Marcus Hinds

The significance of Christ is not his maleness, but his humanity.

—Jacqueline Grant
Contents

List of Illustrations · ix
Foreword by Dr. Leonard Sweet · xi
Preface · xv

PART 1: A Beginning
1 A Yearning Too Deep For Words · 3
2 Discovering Christianity’s Mystic Roots · 9
3 Going Deeper Into Paradox · 17

PART 2: The Tightrope
4 Tempering the Extremes · 35
5 Asking the Age-old Question · 52
6 Cyril of Alexandria Proclaims Jesus’ Mystic Essence · 65

PART 3: Jesus’ Exquisite Union of Divinity & Humanity
7 Incarnation: Christianity’s Soul · 87
8 Rediscovering the Symmetry of the Incarnation · 98

PART 4: Clarity & Conviction about Jesus in a Pluralistic World
9 Christian Theology’s Essence for the Twenty-first Century & Beyond · 115
10 Fragmentation to Wholeness · 123

PART 5: The Christian Mystics’ Love of the Human Being
11 The Least of These · 133
12 The Foreigner · 154
PART 6: The Christian Mystics’ Love of God
13 The Holistic Mind of The Alexandrian Mystics • 169
14 The Silent Prayer of The Alexandrian Mystics • 188
15 Understanding The Silent Prayer of The Alexandrian Mystics • 202

PART 7: Conclusion
16 Anchored in Jesus According to The Alexandrian Mystics • 215
17 Filling in the Trenches, Healing the Divide • 226

Afterword by Richard Rohr • 237

APPENDICES
Appendix A
Glossary • 241
Appendix B
The Lineage of Alexandrian Mystics • 269
Appendix C
The Nicene Creed (325 CE) • 271
Appendix D
Biblical Roots of The Jesus Paradox (Miaphysite) • 273
Appendix E
Miaphysite’s Geographic Roots Today • 277
Appendix F
Miaphysite versus Monophysite, and other Early Church Heresies • 279
Appendix G
Miaphysite’s Historic Roots: Redressing the Council of Chalcedon • 286

Bibliography • 291