THE ABSENT CHRIST
An Anabaptist Theology of the Empty Tomb
by Justin Heinzekehr
C. Henry Smith Series 12

TO ORDER:
- From Cascadia, use options end of page
- Online, use Amazon.com, BN.com, BookDepository.com, and other Internet retailers

More Cascadia titles:
- *Education with the Grain of the Universe: A Peaceable Vision for the Future of Mennonite Schools, Colleges, and Universities*, ed. J. Denny Weaver
- *Making a Difference in the Journey: The Geography of Our Faith*, ACRS4, ed. Nancy V. Lee and more
- *Human Sexuality in Biblical Perspective: A Study Guide*, Carrie A. Mast and Gerald J. Mast
- *Re-Envisioning Service: The Geography of Our Faith*, ACRS3, ed. Ray C. Gingerich and Pat Hostetter Martin
- *Living the Anabaptist Story*, Lisa D. Weaver and J. Denny Weaver
- *Songs from an Empty Cage: Poetry, Mystery, Anabaptism, and Peace*, Jeff Gundy
- *Discerning God's Will Together: Biblical Interpretation in the Free Church Tradition*, Ervin R. Stutzman

Summary: In conversation with postmodern philosophy and power analysis, Justin Heinzekehr explores the significance of the empty tomb and Jesus' physical absence for Anabaptist ecclesiology and theology. The majority of Anabaptist theology has wrestled with the life and death of Jesus, but what about the biblical accounts of the liminal space in between? Heinzekehr asks how Christ's physical absence defines and challenges the way we live in our communities.

Drawing on a wide variety of philosophers, including Emmanuel Levinas, Alfred North Whitehead, Gilles Deleuze, Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Karl Marx, and Catherine Keller, Heinzekehr constructs a new Anabaptist theology that takes the gospel stories of Jesus' absence as seriously as his life and teachings.

"Looking for divinity in the faces of those around us, rather than in other-worldly places or merely in our own religious performance, is not the end of theology but rather its beginning. And it puts a healthy spin on a question I have raised for years, 'What is Jesus doing now?'"
—*Joerg Rieger, Distinguished Professor of Theology, Cal Turner Chancellor's Chair in Wesleyan Theology, Director of the Wendland-Cook Program in Religion and Justice, Vanderbilt University*

"For centuries, the empty tomb has been at the heart of Christian belief and practice. But never have I seen the Christian affirmation of the present and absent Christ spelled out so clearly and insightfully for the postmodern world. In these pages Anabaptist theology finds its prophetic voice again."
—*Philip Clayton, Author, Transforming Christian Theology*

"Heinzekehr has undertaken and is offering us something important: a work of constructive, contemporary Mennonite theology developing christological reflections on the pressing questions of environmental crisis, what this means to 'people of God's peace' and how we might follow an 'absent Christ.' I also applaud the gentle invitation to reconsider metaphysics—or 'micro metaphysics'—found in these pages and through the evocative image of the joyful darkness of a cool, empty tomb."
—*Malinda Elizabeth Berry, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics, Anabaptist Menonite Biblical Seminary*

Market: Scholars, professors, and graduate students; all interested in Anabaptist-Mennonite theology, God's presence in the world, Christology, pacifism/violence, and their interplay with the "absent Christ."

Shelving: Theology—Anabaptist, Mennonite. Peacemaking, pacifism, nonviolence. BISAC: Religion, Social Sciences, Philosophy. RTM: 690 Religion/Ethics

The Author

Justin Heinzekehr, Goshen, Indiana, is Director of Institutional Research and Assessment and Assistant Professor of Bible and Religion at Goshen College. His most recent work has focused on the intersection of political philosophy, religion, and environmental ethics, with titles such as *Organic Marxism* (2014) and *Socialism in Process* (2017).

PUBLISHED BY CASCADIA PUBLISHING HOUSE