

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Introduction	1
1 Sacred Wor(l)ds: The Doctrine of Creation and the Possible Worlds of Literature	7
Creating space and time for multivocality	10
Mediated creation and the dark materials of language	13
Breathing new life into myth	18
2 Beings in Relation: Otherness, Personhood and the Language of the Trinity	24
Personhood	29
Language relations	35
The Love Feast	40
3 Mediating the Divine: Law, Gift and Justice	47
Exchanging gifts	51
The problem of the Law in <i>Bleak House</i>	55
Reading <i>The Trial</i> : just interpretation	62
4 Interpretive Communities: Scripture, Tolerance and the People of God	68
Interpretive communities, the secular and the sacred	73
Satanic verses: fundamentalism and the limits of tolerance	77
Hospitable stories	83

5	The Stain of Sin: Tales of Transgression in the Modern World	89
	Dirty talk: the grammar of sin	95
	Indelible stains	100
	Atonement in the modern world	105
6	A Hope and a Future: Suffering and Redemption in Eschatological Perspective	111
	The ministry of love and the hopelessness of hell	116
	Witnessing news from elsewhere	119
	Can these bones live? Revelation, resurrection and the new creation	123
	Notes	129
	Bibliography	151
	Index	163