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This book sets the Scottish theologian John Oman (1860–1939) in his historical and cultural context, and develops the very suggestive doctrine of God which is explored throughout his writings. Stephen Bevans shows that, for Oman, God is that reality who calls and challenges men and women to freedom and responsibility, and is revealed as all-powerful not in the ability to override human freedom, but in the patience to deal with its consequences – which include the existence of both moral and physical evil. For Oman, God’s face has been shown most clearly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, whose gracious dealings with men and women reveal God both as eternal Father and abiding Spirit. This careful study, while rehabilitating the thought of an unjustly neglected theologian, indicates what it might mean to talk about a personal God and shows – at the same time – how relevant Oman’s doctrine of God could be to some contemporary political and social problems.

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To
Judy Borchers
Bill Burrows
George Reisch
friends, companions, guides
sacraments of a gracious God

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