

**BEYOND
REFORMATION?**



BEYOND REFORMATION?

An Essay on William Langland's *Piers Plowman*
and the End of Constantinian Christianity



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This book is dedicated to three teachers and friends:

Elizabeth Salter

Derek Pearsall

Stanley Hauerwas



*Mirabile ergo mysterium Christi sedentis ad dexteram Dei:
occultum est ut crederetur, subtractum est ut speraretur.*

*(This is a wonderful thing about the mystery of
Christ's enthronement at God's right hand:
his presence is hidden that he may be believed in
and withdrawn that he may be hoped for.)*

—St. Augustine, *Enarrationes in Psalmos*, 109.8

*et certe videmus nunc per speculum in aenigmate,
nondum facie ad faciem. et ideo, quamdiu peregrinor abs te,
mihī sum praesentior quam tibi at tamen te novi nullo modo posse violari;
ego vero quibus temptationibus resistere valem quibusve non valeam, nescio.*

*(Without question, “we see now through a mirror in
an enigma,” not yet “face to face” [1 Cor. 13:12].
For this cause, as long as I am a traveller absent from you
[2 Cor. 5:6], I am more present to myself than to you.
Yet I know that you cannot be in any way subjected to violence,
whereas I do not know which temptations I can resist and which I cannot.)*

—St. Augustine, *Confessions*, X.5.7



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