

Tuesday Reflection - All Souls' Day - 2nd November 2021

A world in turmoil. Ravaged by pandemics, facing an ecological crisis leading to crop failures and famine, the old certainties dead, the search for scapegoats rife.

This was Europe in the 14th century.

It was also the background to the work of a German Dominican friar, Eckhart von Hochheim, a controversial character who was caught up in the internecine struggles within the Church, and was in fact tried for heresy under John XXII.

Today we know him as Meister Eckhart and celebrate him as a visionary and mystic in the tradition of Hildegard von Bingen in Germany, Julian of Norwich in England and Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross in Spain.

Following from Our Lord's words in his farewell discourse in St John's Gospel, that "you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me and I am in you" (John 14:20) Eckhart sought the God within.

This is expressed beautifully in a poem based on his writings:

Ours is not the work
of seeking You here
or there where we

think you might be,
but of opening
the heart's door,

and when we do this
You cannot resist
coming in, since

our opening and Your
entering are one: You
knock and wait, and

when we open we
find that You were
there all along and

will not leave us.

(from: Meister Eckhart's Book of the Heart. Meditations for the Restless Soul by Jon M Sweeney & Mark S Burrows)

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