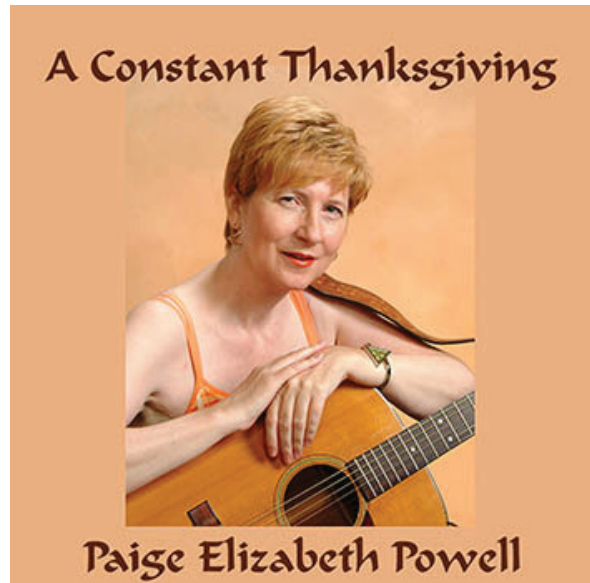


Paige Powell Music Blog for November 24, 2020:

The Story Behind the Song, "A Constant Thanksgiving"

Thanksgiving has always been my very favorite holiday, even more than Christmas. For one thing, I love the traditional food: turkey, dressing (with sage), green bean casserole, sweet potatoes, and pumpkin pie! In addition, **it's an American holiday**. Other countries don't celebrate it, so it's downright patriotic to enjoy it to the fullest. However, this year, we have to celebrate it at its thinnest, without inviting anyone — not family, not neighbors, not friends — **if we really love them**. This deadly virus is forcing us to Zoom and Skype with loved ones, but that's not all bad. Now that we have formed the habit of Zooming, we are much more likely to use it in the future, when we don't need it, but **coaxes us to connect**. If you're still disappointed with this year's Thanksgiving, it helps to sit down and make a list of everything to be **thankful** for. *I'm grateful to be healthy and able to play my guitar and write songs!*



Now, for the story: I became a "born again" Christian in the Spring of 1987. The previous December 1986, I moved from Tulsa, Oklahoma to the D.C. area to start my life over. I was going through a nasty divorce and my supportive family helped me find a place to live, buy a low-budget car and find work. Then, one of my high-school guitar buddies invited me to a "singles" Bible study group and soon I was hooked on my new, nurturing friends and the Bible.

That group of new friends inspired "*A Constant Thanksgiving*", but as a new Christian I was hesitant to add Jesus Christ to the song's lyrics. There were many Christian principles I wasn't sure about, so I wrote the song about being **thankful to God**. But that made it more universal: people of many different faiths can sing this song. The biggest blessing was that my church at the time, **Cedar Ridge Community Church**, sang it several times — a whole congregation singing a song I wrote! Wow!!! How fulfilling that was to my little songwriter heart!

But if you're in the mood for a funny and humorous Thanksgiving song, you can check out "*Too Hung Over (Thanksgiving With Real Indians)*" based on a true story — every word of it really happened to me and my lifelong friend, Betsy. The only question I've gotten from listeners is, "*What DID happen to the Saudi Arabian students?*" and the answer is that somehow they were already in Grandma's car when it was time for us to leave.

For an extra Thanksgiving treat, tune into **Robin Ahrold's** music video, "*November*". It will touch your heartstrings with the romance of this season's beauty. Robin has the right idea, and he is inspiring me to get busy and create some music videos of my songs!

I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving with LOTS of Zooming!