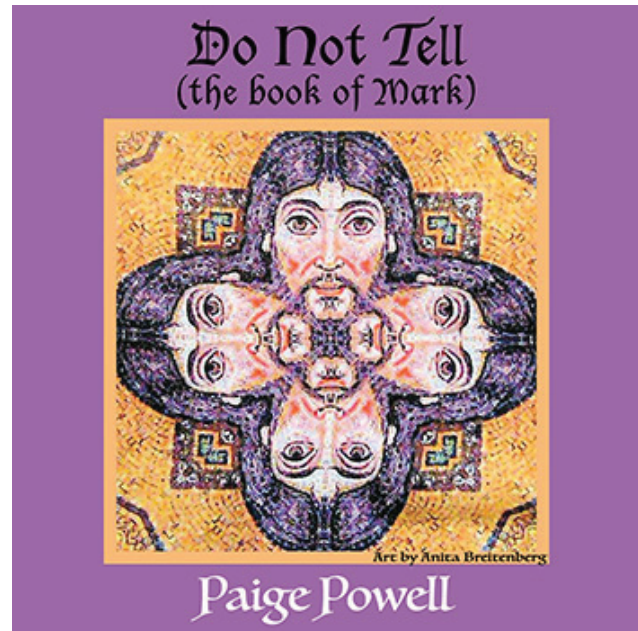


Paige Powell Music Blog for March 30, 2021:

The Story Behind the Song, "Do Not Tell (the Book of Mark)"

Yes, it's Holy Week, so I want to feature my song, "*Do Not Tell (the Book of Mark)*". The story of this song started as an assignment from a group I was once part of, **The Greater DC Area Guild of the Network of Biblical Storytellers, Living the Story**. They were going to teach the book of Mark at an adult Sunday School class and since I was the token songwriter of our group, they asked if I could write a song that would encompass the entire book of Mark. I got out my songwriter's tool belt and decided to give it my best effort. First, I had to figure out a common theme that could become a chorus.



In Mark, Jesus repeats several times "*Do not tell anyone who I am*". First, he gives strict orders to the spirits not to tell (Mark 3:12) then Peter (Mark 8:30) and at other times: Mark 7:36 and 9:9 for example. What is ironic is that at the end of the story, at the empty tomb, the "*young man dressed in white*" tells the women to "*go tell his disciples and Peter*" and they don't do it because they are afraid.

Once, I told someone that I had written a song about the entire book of Mark and he asked, "*How long is it?*" I reassured him that it was only 4 and 1/2 minutes long. Please, dear reader, I hope you can spare 5 minutes of your time to listen to it. I had a great time in the recording studio adding timpani drums, the kind that give a music note (they are tuned before being played) and they add drama, like an old-fashioned Bible movie. I hope you can also take an hour or two to watch an old movie about Jesus, such as "*The Greatest Story Ever Told*" this week or this weekend.

I must give credit where credit is due: the record's artwork is by fine artist Anita Breitenberg