Houston: Press Release — For immediate release April 24, 2017. Saint Julian Press proudly presents a new collection of poems by Skip Renker, which will be available on May 22, 2017 through fine book distributors and retailers.

PRAISE for BEARING THE CAST



"The word metanoia (typically translated as 'repentance') actually means 'Go into the larger mind.' In that sense, Skip Renker's new collection is a profound act of metanoia; it bears witness to a human being 'caught in the act' of waking up, learning to pay attention from the heart. Clearly detectible beneath the sparse, Zenlike surface of these poems are those deeper shafts of light emerging from a growing compassion, gentleness, and a wry, self- deprecating humor that somehow manages to 'hold all things in unity."

The Rev. Cynthia Bourgeault Episcopal Priest – Writer – Retreat Leader

"In this God-haunted book of poems where the Dhammapada and The Tibetan Book of the Dead seem to exert influence equally with the writings of Thoreau and Meister Eckhart, Skip Renker gives us the world made whole again through a language of remarkable precision and clarity. The old dichotomy of subjective/objective falls away, replaced by the thinking mind bodied forth, which is to say, poetry of a very high order. Bearing the Cast is a magnificent achievement."

B.H. Fairchild – Author

The Blue Buick: New and Selected Poems

National Book Critics Circle Award Winner

"As you read this book, everything around you will grow more vivid. Wherever you live, whatever you see every day—ordinary as it may seem—will snap into a different kind of focus. Skip Renker argues that if we can coax ourselves to be still, if we can look carefully and at length at what lies immediately in our lives, if we can enter silence and pay attention and grasp what we see, we might be transformed. I am grateful for his steadiness, especially during this time of historic upheaval. He is a trustworthy companion. I would follow him anywhere."

Jeanne Murray Walker – Author Helping the Morning: New and Selected Poems

Skip Renker has degrees from Notre Dame and Duke and an MFA from Seattle Pacific University. His poems have appeared in *California Quarterly, Poetry Midwest, Small Brushes, Spirit First*, and numerous other publications, as well as the *Atlanta Review, Passages North*, and *Allegheny River* anthologies. He's published a chapbook, *Birds of Passage* (Delta Press), and *Sifting the Visible* (Mayapple Press), and he conducts workshops and college classes in meditation, world religions, and writing. Skip is the father of two grown children, grandfather of three, and lives with his wife Julia Fogarty in Midland, Michigan.