



# *God's Belvedere: A Lenten Meditation*

## JASON KATSANIS

### **Artist Statement:**

*The 2017 Lenten season found me in transition, adrift, uncertain. In the morning stillness of my daily walk I saw God's eternal changelessness in this ordinary view of Puget Sound: always the same yet always different. I felt God inviting me to take in each day's beauty, like these images. As our daily activities of waking, eating, working, playing, sleeping blur together, there is reassurance in the same-ness of it all, yet each day is surprisingly different: each one offering its own unique beauty.*

*Our breakfast tastes different depending on how we slept, what happened yesterday, what news we may have heard upon waking; similarly, the clouds and light change the appearance of Puget Sound and its islands and peninsulas. Yet each day is a new gift from God that he invites to enjoy.*

*Each of these photos was taken from the same vantage point, in the same direction, at approximately the same time of day each morning during this past season of Lent.*

*Spend some time with each one.  
How are they the same? How are they different?*

*May each of us observe and appreciate the days God has given us, until the Great Easter.*

*Many thanks to Doug Moore and the copy department at McKinstry, and to our Arts Elder Sarah Sawers, without whom this project would not have been possible.*

- Jason Katsanis

**Artist Bio :** *Jason Katsanis started attending Bethany PC in 2008, and sings in the choir. When not tromping around the Cascades getting his shoes muddy, he enjoys low-light photography and field recording.*

**belvedere** (n) *(It, fr. bel, beautiful + vedere to see) a building commanding a fine prospect*

40 Days: a Litany of Gratitude by Jason Katsanis

1 For the beauty of your Creation

**Lord make us grateful**

2 For smoky clouds with light shimmering through

**Lord make us grateful**

3 For your breath, driving white-capped waves

**Lord make us grateful**

4 For when skies are blue and the way seems clear

**Lord make us grateful**

5 For the promise of hope beyond the grey clouds

**Lord make us grateful**

6 For those who work hard beneath dreary skies

**Lord we are grateful**

7 For rippling patterns where we saw none before

**Lord make us grateful**

8 For smoothing the way when we are tired

**Lord make us grateful**

9 For storms in the distance and powerful showers

**Lord make us grateful**

10 When the way is unclear and we're not sure where to go

**Lord make us grateful**

11 For stillness and contrast when the way is more clear

**Lord make us grateful**

12 For misty grey oceans and faraway lands

**Lord make us grateful**

13 For a world steeped in mystery

**Lord make us grateful**

14 For crisp bright days when the wind whips our sails

**Lord make us grateful**

15 For subtle pastels and gentle magnificence

**Lord make us grateful**

16 For memories hidden in clouds of forgetfulness

**Lord make us grateful**

17 For waves of lament when the sun is far off

**Lord make us grateful**

18 When the path is marked clearly but then disappears

**Lord make us grateful**

19 For the great cloud of witnesses who have gone on before us

**Lord make us grateful**

20 For lands of darkness and opalescent seas of light

**Lord make us grateful**

21 For wrinkled green waters and painted grey firmament

**Lord make us grateful**

22 For shapes in the water and dappled destiny

**Lord make us grateful**

23 For vibrant friends and bright strangers

**Lord make us grateful**

24 For lines of demarcation, real and imagined

**Lord make us grateful**

25 For when you are there but we just cannot see

**Lord make us grateful**

26 For saints who have shown us the right way to go

**Lord we are grateful**

27 For those we cross paths with on the way to the shore

**Lord we are grateful**

28 For gleaming light parklands and we feel we might fly

**Lord we are grateful**

29 When glimmering circumstance reminds us of You

**Lord make us grateful**

30 When softly-hued atmosphere makes us forget

**Lord make us grateful**

31 When our face is wet with tears mixed with rain

**Lord make us grateful**

32 When weeping is over yet sadness is not

**Lord make us grateful**

33 When stormy black days drive out all our tears

**Lord make us grateful**

34 For clouds slowly parting and friends far away

**Lord make us grateful**

35 For islands of happiness and of doubt

**Lord make us grateful**

36 For azure radiance almost too bright to bear

**Lord make us grateful**

37 For when we get tired of expressing our gratitude

**Lord make us grateful**

38 For when we see clearly things far away

**Lord make us grateful**

39 For days that are bright but the wind is too strong

**Lord make us grateful**

40 For the season of testing, and when it is over

**Lord make us ever grateful**

**Amen**