

Celebration of Life for
L. Atley Ralston

OCTOBER 26, 1934 – MAY 18, 2026



Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation

11 AM • SATURDAY • JUNE 6, 2026

Prelude

Troy Fisher

*Opening Words and
Lighting the Chalice*

Rev. Mary Gear

Sing Together

"Come Sing a Song with Me"

Words & Music: Carolyn McDade

led by Troy Fisher

A Life Remembered

Rev. Mary Gear

Atley at his 80th birthday party (recording)

Anna Garrett (daughter)

words of Steve Edwards (friend), read by James Ralston

Sing Together

"Red River Valley"

Words & Music: American Folk Song

led by Emma Grice, Joel Richart, and Josh Grice

A Life Remembered (cont.)

John Ralston (son)



Musical Interlude

"Soave sia il vento" from *Così fan Tutte*
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
sung by Anna Garrett, Mary McCann, and Gavin Hayes

Poem

"Gabriel Blow Your Horn" by Ernesta Ballard
read by James Dodge

Musical Interlude

"Dona Nobis Pacem"
Words: Traditional Latin / Music: Traditional canon
sung by Ted Dodge, Anna Garrett, and Joel Richart

Closing Words

Rev. Mary Gear



Music

Taps – played by Greg Allison

Postlude

Troy Fisher

**Everyone is welcome for a
reception in the Commons.**



Gabriel Blow Your Horn by Ernesta Ballard

*My hands are still, I'm fighting tears,
the keys before me playing now
the room is spinning, music soars, encircles,
blankets,
then crescendos
I'm not playing, Atley is, at my piano, in my home
who could forget when Atley played
he offered more than just the score,
his joy, his friendship and his love of every phrase,
every note
an honor to have heard him play.
Ephemeral our lives on earth, a fleeting beat of
heavens heart
beyond the stars when Atley knocks
Gabriel, blow your horn.*

~

On the OUUC website, you can find a link to
Atley's obituary, where you can also share
photos and stories in a virtual guestbook:
<https://www.ouuc.org/atley-ralston/>