



Wedding Ceremony

Carol Davidson and Susan McGill



Buchaille Etive Mhor, Glencoe

25th April 2019

Welcome all. I am Gillian, a Celebrant, and I am honoured to join you.

Let us take time just now. Let us join in silence and listen to the sounds of this mountain.

Let us breathe deeply of the air here, breathing in the joy of our gathering and breathing out the busyness of our lives.

Let us look around us at the beauty of this mountain and the mountains beyond.

Let us see each other, look at the people you know and love, and who you have shared so much with.

Let us see Carol and Susan, here together, with each other and with each of you.

Let us join hands in connection with one another.

In the stillness that joins us, let us open our hearts to welcome the wisdom and grace of One Spirit and feel the peace of this presence, holding us in prayer and love.

In this place of great history, we call on the ancient presence and power of the mountains here. We call on the elements: earth, air, water, fire. And we call on our own guides and ancestors, those who have gone before us and those who lived and died in this ancient land of Glencoe.

Right now, we each give our hearts to the creation of a place of sacred and joyful Ceremony.

We are gathered here in love, to celebrate love. Let us take a moment of quiet stillness. Dropping hands, standing together, but individually. Let us hold the word 'love' in each of our hearts and minds, and see what it is for each of us.

'Love is the wind that makes things happen. We see the fluttering of leaves as the invisible wind, which belongs to no-one, passes through the trees'.

Carol and Susan have freely chosen to be here today. They have freely chosen to be with each other, and to celebrate their love with this Ceremony of Marriage. They freely choose to share a home together, to walk life's path together, and to honour and respect each other. They freely choose to be legally married, to make promises to each other, and to share their promises with us.

Carol and Susan freely choose to step over the threshold of their present selves, to begin a new way of being together, of being family, of being partners, to walk each other home. They freely choose to enter into a shared and equal relationship, each recognising and acknowledging that this requires effort and tolerance, acceptance and patience, honesty and kindness.

They freely choose to create their own marriage, unbound by the expectations of others, following their own paths, cherishing their friendship, their love and their lives together.

Here we stand, on the summit of Buchaille Etive Mhor, the Great Shepherd of Etive, in shared connection through Carol and Susan. We are grateful for each other's presence, and for all the promises and commitments we have witnessed. We have felt the beauty of this mountain and all that surrounds it. We have opened our hearts to the wisdom and grace of OneSpirit, holding us in prayer. We have opened our hearts to the elements, earth, air, water, fire, and to our own guides and ancestors and to those whose lives rest in this ancient land of Glencoe.

We have been honoured to witness the love and marriage of Carol and Susan.



Handfasting Ceremony

Charlie and Kenneth, I invite you to clasp your right hands, joining hands, joining hearts.

These two tartan ribbons symbolise joining two people in love, joining two families.



With these handfasting ribbons, Kenneth and Charlie have tied an Infinity Knot, symbolising their never-ending love for each other, 'tying the knot' symbolising the love that binds them together.

Vows

The Handfasting Ceremony has symbolised the joining of two men, and of two families, across the land and across the sea. The knot symbolises the bond between Charlie and Kenneth. They have promised their love and commitment to one another. They have been seen and heard by each of us as we continue to hold them both in our hearts, as we welcome their new way of being together, as we share their joy in celebrating their love.

Jumping the Broom/Jumping the Besom

Anne and Douglas, we have witnessed you at the heart of this wedding ceremony, walking together along this path of commitment, walking towards the transformation of your relationship, walking towards 'belonging', walking each other home.

In a final symbolic act, 'jumping the broom', you are invited to take that final step, to cross the threshold, to enter your new life together, your new way of being, your new adventure in love.

This final ritual symbolises the moment when you only look forward, when you leave behind your previous ways of being.

We will all stand.

Anne and Douglas, I now invite you to take one last look at your lives up until now. Look back at yourselves as two people in love, two people in relationship

Look at each other now See each other as you are: two people who, witnessed by all of us, have committed to spending the rest of your lives together, have committed to loving each other, to sharing everything that you have with each other, to caring for each other, to honouring, respecting and understanding each other.

With these words of commitment, with your vows in your hearts, 'jump the broom' that leaves your old lives behind and signifies the very first moment of your new life together, as Husband and Wife.

Jump the Broom



Unity Candle Ceremony

Before the couple enter.

And now, as we reach the moment when Jenny and Rob will join us, I invite Jenny's Mum, Rachel and Rob's Mum, Denise, to light these two candles, to represent their individuality, the unique qualities that they each bring to their relationship, the light of their love.

Later in the Wedding Ceremony

Now, as a further symbol of your union, I invite you both to light the Unity candle.

Rachel and Denise each lit a candle. Their flames are bright, alive and warm. Each can stand alone, perfect, beautiful, a shining light. Yet when you use these flames together to light a Unity candle, they create a new light, a new brightness, a new hope for your life and your love. In marriage, individuality is not lost, but you are united, and, as you light the Unity candle, we see the single flame, uniting your lives, burning with the brightness of everything that you each bring to your relationship: joy, patience, understanding, respect, fun, and, of course, love!

