

# All Age Worship Service

(AAW014)

“I am the  
Resurrection and the  
Life”

© Jane Hulme 2017

ALL AGE WORSHIP  
RESOURCES.ORG



## “I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE”

### Service Aim:

To unpack what Jesus meant when He said: *“I am the resurrection and the life.”*

### Biblical Reference(s):

John 11:1-44, 2Corinthians 5:1-5

### Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	Drama: “I can change your life”
Link:	Who can we trust to tell us what happens after we die?
Memory verse:	John 11:25 using house bricks
Link:	Jesus says that He has the power to raise the dead. Is Jesus credible?
Drama:	“Sherlock Holmes investigates Lazarus’ resurrection” (John 11:1-43)
Songs:	<u>A song about Jesus’ power</u> (See Appendix 1)
Talk 1:	Death is not the end for us as Jesus is more powerful than death. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life</li> </ul>
Response:	Responsive Creed
Songs:	<u>Credal song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Memory verse:	John 11:25 using house bricks
Link:	So what happens to us after we die?
Reading:	2Corinthians 5:1-5
Talk 2:	Our current body is like a tent. It is temporary and wears out. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our resurrection body is like a house. It is permanent and perfect</li> </ul>
Confession:	Prayer of Confession.
Songs:	<u>Song/s choosing to live holy lives</u> (See Appendix 1)
Memory Verse:	John 11:25 from memory
Prayers:	Using responses
Lord’s prayer	
Summary:	Summarize the main teaching points of the service.
Handout:	Handout a sunflower seed to plant
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	

## Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

**Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.**

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

.....

## Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service and explain to people that you will be looking at the fifth of Jesus' seven "I am" statements that are recorded in John's Gospel; "I am the resurrection and the life."

## Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer or
- a prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship"<sup>1</sup> that the congregation can say together.
- Alternatively you could a prayer like:

We come to our Father

**Who loves us**

Through Jesus the Son

**Who gave up His life for us**

In the power of the Spirit

**Who breathes new life into us**

And we honour You our God

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

## Warm up:

The warm up is a drama called, "I can change your life" and can be found in Appendix 2.

You could introduce the drama by saying something like:

There are all sorts of people in life who will tell us that they can change our lives for the better.

- We will see some of them on television or online offering us new things to eat that they claim will taste better than anything that we have ever tasted before.
- They may offer us products to help us lose weight in just a few short days or become better looking amongst other things.
- But can we really believe them? Watch this drama:

## Link:

None of the people in the drama were believable were they?

- We couldn't trust Mrs Mop to help us keep clean, even though she said that she could save us hours washing and showering with her special soap.
- We couldn't trust Mr Delicious to help us to lose weight, even though he said that he had a cake we could eat with zero calories.

<sup>1</sup> Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603  
© Jane Hulme 2017

We couldn't trust Mrs Brain Box to make learning easier, even though she said that she could offer us instant learning with a brain chip.

- And the reason we couldn't trust any of these people is that their actions didn't back up what they said.

Now when it comes to the really big questions of life and death, we need to find answers from people who are trustworthy and believable,

- and whose actions back up what they say.

So for instance, is there someone who can tell us the truth about what will happen to us after we die, and how to prepare for that day?

If we turn to google, we will get all sorts of different answers from different people.

- Some people may tell us that we are reincarnated after we die and will come back to earth as something else.....like a fish or a bird!
- Other people may tell us that we will turn into a star in the sky after we die or become an angel,
- whereas other people may tell us that death is the end.....and that there is nothing after we die.

But who is telling us the truth?

- Can anyone's actions back up their words?
- Let's find out what Jesus says in our memory verse today.

### Memory Verse:

The memory verse is John 11:25. You could present the memory verse using pictures of house bricks to which are attached the words of the memory verse as below:

- Brick 1: "I am
- Brick 2: the resurrection and the life.
- Brick 3: The one who believes in me
- Brick 4: will live
- Brick 5: even though they die."
- Brick 6: John chapter 11, verse 25

To explain why you are using building bricks you could say something like:

Some of you may wonder why we are using building bricks to present the memory verse today.....let's see if that becomes clear as the service goes on.

### Link:

From our memory verse we hear Jesus saying that death is not the end for us.

- Jesus claims that there is life after we die for those who believe in Him.
- Jesus claims that He has the power to raise us from the dead into new life.

So can we trust Jesus?

- Is Jesus believable or is He like Mrs Mop, Mr Delicious and Mrs Brain Box, promising to give us something that he cannot deliver on?
- Can we find any evidence to support what Jesus is saying?

Let's see if the great detective Sherlock Holmes can find any evidence to help us work out whether we can believe Jesus or not.

## Drama:

The drama is called “Sherlock Holmes investigates Lazarus’ resurrection.” It is an investigation of the biblical story of the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-43) and can be found in Appendix 3. The words for the actor Sherlock could be printed out and affixed to a clipboard. You may like to begin and end the drama by playing the BBC theme tune to “Sherlock.”<sup>2</sup>

## Songs:

A song/s about Jesus’ power as per Appendix 1

## Talk 1:

This talk would benefit from illustrating each major teaching point with a picture or PowerPoint slide.

In our memory verse today Jesus claims that death is not the end for us;

- and that He has the power to raise us from the dead into new life.

We have asked the question: “Can we trust Jesus?”

- Can we find any evidence to support what Jesus is saying?

The answer is “yes” – we can trust Jesus because there is evidence to support what He is saying.

- The biblical story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is evidence that Jesus has power over death
- Let’s look at the story a little closer.

Lazarus was an ordinary person, like you and me.

- He became very ill and he died and he was buried in a tomb.
- Now when someone close to us dies it is very sad isn’t it? *(Show a picture of a sad smiley face)*
- Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus were very sad,
- and Jesus, Lazarus’ friend was so sad that he wept at Lazarus’ tomb.

It is very normal to be sad when someone we love dies, but **death is not the end of the story.**

- It is not the final chapter in the book of our lives.
- Death is not the end because Jesus, the Son of God is far more powerful than it.

Jesus told Martha and He tells us that He is the resurrection and the life....

- and He went on to prove that by raising Lazarus from the dead. *(Show a picture of a happy smiley face)*

Can you imagine the shock to all the people in Bethany when Lazarus walked out of the tomb?

- A dead man brought back to life again.....
- Who has the power to do that?

<sup>2</sup> You can find the Sherlock Holmes theme song on You Tube at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) by putting “Sherlock Holmes theme song” into the search bar

Only Jesus has the power to do that.....

- **He alone is more powerful than death...**
- He alone has the power to give people new life.

Now the raising of Lazarus was a sign.....

- or a visual aid if you like... of the real gift that Jesus came to bring us.

Lazarus was given a few more years to live but one day he would die again.....

- but the gift that Jesus offers to all of us is much greater.....

It is **the gift of eternal life**....of a relationship with Himself,

- that begins here on earth when we first put our trust in Him,
- and which continues after death, living in His presence for all eternity.

This gift was brought about through Jesus' own death on the cross,

- when he paid for the sins that you and I have all committed,
- and confirmed when He Himself was raised from the dead on the third day.

You and I **don't need to be afraid of death** because if we put our trust in Jesus, He promises to raise us from the dead one day to live with Him forever.

- Now that is good news and it is our hope as Christians.

## Response:

After Jesus had told Martha that He is the resurrection and the life he asked her: "*Do you believe this?*"

- That is an important question for each one of us to answer too.
- Do we believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?
- Are we willing to put our trust in Him both now and for all eternity?
- Let's take a moment of quiet to think about our answer. PAUSE

We are going to respond to Jesus' question by using a responsive Creed.<sup>3</sup>

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

<sup>3</sup> The Creed is an authorized Church of England Affirmation of faith and can be found on the Church of England's Website at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/psalter,-collects-and-other-resources/creeds.aspx>

This is the faith of the Church.  
**This is our faith.**  
**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**  
**Amen.**

## Songs:

A Credal song as per Appendix 1

## Memory verse:

Repeat the memory verse John 11:25 a couple of times using the pictures of house bricks to show the words. If you want a shorter service, go to the Confession next.

## Link:

We have said today that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, so death is not the end for us....

- One day we will be raised from the dead to live with Jesus forever.

But what exactly does the Bible tell us about the sort of body that we will have after we die?

- Will we float around as a spirit without a body?
- Will we have the body of an angel with wings?
- What sort of body will we have?
- Listen to what St Paul tells us.

## Reading:

The reading is 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 and could be read by one or two readers (reading alternate verses.) The Contemporary English Version<sup>4</sup> works well as below:

*1 Our bodies are like tents that we live in here on earth. But when these tents are destroyed, we know that God will give each of us a place to live. These homes will not be buildings that someone has made, but they are in heaven and will last forever.*

*2 While we are here on earth, we sigh because we want to live in that heavenly home.*

*3 We want to put it on like clothes and not be naked.*

*4 These tents we now live in are like a heavy burden, and we groan. But we don't do this just because we want to leave these bodies that will die. It is because we want to change them for bodies that will never die.*

*5 God is the one who makes all of this possible. He has given us his Spirit to make us certain that he will do it.*

## Talk 2:

For this talk you will need a tent that you can easily erect.

Who would like to come and live in my tent? (*Allow children to come into the tent*)

- Some of you may enjoy spending a night in your garden camping in a tent,
- or going away on holiday and spending a week or two in your tent,
- but how many of you would actually want to live in a tent every day of your life?

<sup>4</sup> From the *Contemporary English Version* New Testament © American Bible Society 1991, 1992, 1995. Used with permission/Anglicizations © British & Foreign Bible Society 1996.

If the weather is very very hot, what is it like inside a tent? *(Receive answers)*

- Very hot and uncomfortable.....hard to cool down.

If the weather is very very cold, what is it like inside a tent? *(Receive answers)*

- Very cold and uncomfortable.....hard to warm up.

How about if it is very windy? What might happen to your tent? *(Receive answers)*

- It could get blown down or ripped couldn't it?

And what about if there is a very big thunderstorm with pounding rain....what might happen to your tent? *(Receive answers)*

- It could leak couldn't it and your sleeping bag could get wet.

Useful though tents are, even the best ones have not been built to last forever.

The houses that we live in, on the other hand,

- and which are often built from bricks,
- were built to last for a much longer time.

St Paul tells us in our reading that the physical bodies that we have whilst we live on earth are a bit like tents.

- They are not built to last forever....
- They are **temporary** while we live on earth. *(Project the word "temporary" alongside a picture of a tent with the heading, "Earthly body")*

Not only are they temporary but as we get older, bits of our bodies begin to **wear out** and start to give us pain. *(Project the words "wear out" alongside a picture of a tent with the heading, "Earthly body")*

However, one day, we are going to be given a resurrection body that is a bit like a house.

- This body will last forever and is **permanent**. *(Project the word "permanent" alongside a picture of a brick house with the heading, "Resurrection body")*
- This body will not wear out and will be **perfect**. *(Project the word "perfect" alongside a picture of a brick house with the heading, "Resurrection body")*
- Can you see now why we have put today's memory verse on bricks?

Not only has Jesus promised that death is not the end for us,

- but we are promised a resurrection body to live in that will be permanent and perfect as we live in God's loving and happy presence.

When Jesus was raised from the dead, his friends recognised Him.....

- so His resurrection body must have looked similar to the body that He had before He was crucified, although it would have been different.
- Our resurrection bodies will probably look similar to our bodies now, but they will be different.
- They will be permanent and perfect.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

- One day, if we have walked with Him, we will be raised from the dead to live with Him forever in our new resurrection bodies. We have much to look forward to.....



## Confession:

Sometimes we forget that we have been made for relationship with God and to live with Him forever and we choose to live for this life only.....

- Let's ask the risen Jesus to forgive us.

Lead into a Confession prayer. This could be:

- an informal Confession prayer led by the service leader or
- a Confession prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship" that the congregation can say together,
- or a prayer like the following:

**Lord Jesus,**

**We are sorry that we have often failed to love you and serve you.**

**We are sorry that we have chosen to be selfish rather than to love other people.**

**Please forgive us.**

**Help us to follow you as we prepare for the day when we will meet you face to face.**

**Amen.**

Follow this with a prayer of Absolution.

## Songs:

Song/s choosing to live holy lives as per Appendix 1

## Memory verse:

Repeat the memory verse John 11:25 a couple of times from memory!

## Prayers:

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family or by a Sunday school group etc. You could lead the prayers in the following way:

- 1) Bring before Jesus a difficult situation in the world; praying that Jesus will bring His new life there. End with the refrain:  
**You are the resurrection and the life. Please bring new life.**
- 2) Bring before Jesus a difficult situation in your nation; praying that Jesus will bring His new life there. End with the refrain:  
**You are the resurrection and the life. Please bring new life.**
- 3) Bring before Jesus a difficult relationship that you are coping with. End with the refrain:  
**You are the resurrection and the life. Please bring new life.**
- 4) Bring before Jesus people who are sick. End with the refrain:  
**You are the resurrection and the life. Please bring new life.**

End the time of prayer with the Lord's prayer.

## Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

Jesus says that He is the resurrection and the life.

- We can believe Him because He raised Lazarus to life.
- So, death is not the end for us as Jesus is more powerful than death.
- Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life and if we receive that gift He will one day raise us from the dead.
- We will be given a permanent and perfect resurrection body to live in, as we live in the presence of God.
- This is the Christian hope

## Handout:

Explain to people that you are going to give them a sunflower seed, during the final song, to take home with them. Explain that although the seed looks dead, if they plant it in some compost/soil and water it regularly, it will grow and become a sunflower plant....it will receive its "resurrection body!" May this activity remind them of the truth of John 11:25

## Final Song:

Lead into the final songs as per Appendix 1

## Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

Christ the author of resurrection and life,  
 lead you into deeper relationship with Himself,  
 as you wait for the day when you meet Him face to face,  
 And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among  
 you and remain with you always. Amen.

**[Notices:** If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

## Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of opening songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- Come let us worship the King of Kings (Nathan Fellingham © 2001 Thankyou Music)
- Come people of the risen king (Keith & Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend © 2007 Thankyou Music)
- Here's a song bursting out (Matt Redman & Alan Price © 1998 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- Lord I lift your name on high (Rick Founds © 1989 Maranatha! Music)
- The splendour of the King (Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash © 2004 Sixsteps Music)

ii) A Song/s about Jesus' power. Ideas include:

- Everyone needs compassion (Reuben Morgan & Ben Fielding ©2006 Hillsong Publishing)
- God so loved (Ben Cantelon © 2010 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus Christ is the Lord of all (Steve Israel and Gerrit Gustafson © 1988 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- Jesus is Lord the cry that echoes (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2003 Thankyou Music)
- My God is so big, so strong and so mighty (Author unknown)
- Praise Him you heavens (Russell Fragar © 1998 Russell Fragar / Hillsong Publishing)

iii) Credal Song. Ideas include:

- I believe in Jesus (Marc Nelson © 1987 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing)
- I believe there is a God in heaven (Dave Bilbrough © 1991 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- Jesus hope of the nations (Brian Doerksen © 2002 Integrity's Hosanna! Music)
- We believe in God the Father (Graham Kendrick © 1986 Thankyou Music)
- This I believe (The Creed) (Matt Crocker and Ben Fielding © 2014 Hillsong Music Publishing)

iv) Song/s about choosing to live holy lives. Ideas include:

- I have hidden your word in my heart (Mick Gisbey © 1986 Kingsways Thankyou Music)
- Keep me close to you (Alan Price © 1994 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Let no one caught in sin remain (Matt Maher & Mia Fieldes © 2009 Thankyou Music)
- Over all the earth (Brenton Brown © 1998 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire))
- Who O Lord could save themselves (Matt Redman & Jonas Myrin © 2009 Thankyou Music)

v) Final song. Ideas include:

- In Christ alone (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2001 Thankyou Music)
- The greatest day in history (Tim Hughes & Ben Cantelon © 2006 Thankyou Music)
- The moon and stars they wept (Brian Johnson, Kari Jobe, Jenn Johnson, Gabriel Wilson, Joel Taylor & Christa Black Gifford © 2013 Bethel Musci Publishing)
- Thine be the glory (Edmond L. Budry)
- You're the Word of God the Father (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2002 Thankyou Music)

## Appendix 2 – “I can change your life” - Drama

**Cast:** Narrator, Mrs Mop, Mr Delicious, Mrs Brainbox (BB)

**Props:** Soap, chocolate cake, ipod with headphones

.....  
(Enter Narrator)

Narrator: Good morning everyone to our next episode of “Life-changers” .....the TV programme that introduces you to people who can totally change your life. We have three very special people here this morning, who promise to make your life better, easier, happier and more wonderful.....I bet you can’t wait!

Let me introduce you to my first guest Mrs. Mop

(Enter Mrs Mop dressed in a shabby way holding a piece of old soap)

Narrator: How are you going to change my life Mrs Mop?

Mrs Mop: I am going to save you hours of showering and bathing each day

Narrator: Sounds good.....we would all enjoy an extra few minutes in bed in the morning. But how are you going to do that Mrs Mop?

Mrs Mop: With soap

Narrator: Hmm.....that doesn’t sound very life changing to me.....we all know what soap is Mrs. Mop

Mrs Mop: Ah but this soap is different...you see you only need to have one wash with it per week and your body will stay clean. It will only cost you fifty pounds a bar

Narrator: And a bargain at that. Think of the time you will save taking showers and baths with once a week washing. Thank you Mrs Mop for offering us something to change our lives.....my only question is “Why do you smell so.....er.....unwashed?”

Mrs Mop: How rude.....I use this soap every week and no-one has ever said that to me before

Narrator: Yes of course....sorry. Let’s move on quickly to our next guest. Let me introduce you to Mr. Delicious

(Enter Mr Delicious who has lots of padding under his coat to make him look fat, holding a chocolate cake)

Narrator: How are you going to change my life Mr Delicious?

Mr Delicious: I have developed this new type of cake that has zero calories. You can eat as much as you like of it and never put on weight!

Narrator: That sounds amazingly good as I love cake. But what about the taste.....does it still taste as good?

Mr Delicious: It tastes just the same as the calorie full cake

Narrator: I'm not being rude Mr Delicious but how long have you been testing out this new cake?

Mr Delicious: Ooooh a few months now. I have eaten about sixty of these cakes

Narrator: Yes, it looks like it! Mmm.....I'm not so sure that your cake has zero calories....

Mr Delicious: Of course it has.....I have done all the tests.....

Narrator: Moving on quickly.....let me introduce you to my last guest.....Mrs Brainbox

*(Enter Mrs Brainbox with an ipod and headphones saying the alphabet but getting it wrong)*

Narrator: How are you going to change my life Mrs Brainbox?

Mrs BB: I don't think I will change your life as much as the lives of our younger viewers

Narrator: I see. So how are you going to change their lives?

Mrs BB: I want to make learning easier.....so this is my new brain chip. Plug it into your ears and switch on and you need never read a book again. Everything you need to learn is instantly transferred from the chip into your brain with no effort.

Narrator: So no more school?

Mrs BB: Exactly

Narrator: I think that could be very popular and utterly life-changing. Think of all the time you could spend at the park or watching television instead. If this works Mrs Brainbox, I am impressed....

Mrs BB: If it works? Of course it works.

Narrator: Could you tell me which books you have already loaded into your brain?

Mrs BB: All sorts....this and that.....the Bible.

Narrator: So which is the first book of the Bible?

Mrs BB: Now come on? That's not fair.....it's a really difficult question .....why don't you ask me how much this amazing device costs?

Narrator: I'm sorry but we are running out of time.....  
So there we have it folks.....three people claiming to be life-changers: Mrs Mop, Mr Delicious and Mrs Brainbox.....I will leave you to make up your mind as to whether you think they really can change your life for the better.

See you again next week for another episode of "Life-Changers." Goodbye for now.

*(Exit all)*

### Appendix 3 - “Sherlock Holmes investigates Lazarus’ resurrection” Drama (based on John 11:1-43)

**Cast:** Sherlock Holmes, Peter (disciple), Martha, Mary, Lazarus

**Props:** Deerstalker hat and magnifying glass for Sherlock Holmes.

**Staging:** The words for Sherlock Holmes could be affixed to a clipboard

.....  
(Theme music for “Sherlock” plays and then Sherlock Holmes appears at the front of church)

Sherlock: I have a fascinating mystery to solve today. There are claims that a man called Lazarus has been raised from the dead in the village of Bethany, four days after he had died. I need to get to the bottom of this and find out if this is fake news or whether this is anything to do with the man they call Jesus.

(Enter Peter who is stopped by Sherlock)

Sherlock: My name is Sherlock Holmes and I wonder if I could ask you some questions.

Peter: Certainly.

Sherlock: Do you know anything about this man Lazarus whom I have heard from various sources, has been raised from the dead?

Peter: Yes I do. I was there when it happened.

Sherlock: So you are.....?

Peter: I am Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples.

Sherlock: Really? Could you tell me the story from the beginning please?

Peter: Of course. A few of us were with Jesus when we received a message from Mary and Martha who are good friends of Jesus. The message said that their brother Lazarus was very ill.

Sherlock: I thought this might have something to do with Jesus. Do go on.

Peter: Now we were all rather surprised because Jesus didn’t immediately make the journey to Bethany to see Lazarus but we stayed where we were for another two days.

Sherlock: But I thought that you said that Mary and Martha were Jesus’ friends.

Peter: They are and Lazarus is too.

Sherlock: So why did Jesus wait for two days before he left for Bethany? He could have stopped Lazarus from dying. That is a mystery.

Peter: Well it was rather a mystery to us until Jesus said, "*Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe.*" It all makes sense now. Oh look here is Martha, she will be able to tell you a bit more about all of this.

*(Exit Peter and enter Martha who is stopped by Sherlock)*

Sherlock: Hello Martha, my name is Sherlock Holmes. I am sorry to hear about the death of your brother.

Martha: But he is alive....haven't you heard?

Sherlock: Er yes....but I am trying to get to the bottom of this mystery. What exactly happened when Jesus eventually arrived in Bethany?

Martha: Well by the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead and buried for four days and we were all so very sad. I ran out to meet Jesus and told him that if he had been here, Lazarus wouldn't have died.

Sherlock: So what did Jesus say to you?

Martha: He said: "*Your brother will rise again.*" I told Jesus that I believed that would happen at the end of time but then Jesus said something amazing.

Sherlock: What was that?

Martha: He said: "*I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?*"

Sherlock: Right.....that is a bit mind bending even for a detective!

Martha: I know....but I told Jesus that I believed that He was the Son of God....and then I went to find my sister Mary to tell her that Jesus had arrived. Oh here is Mary now.

*(Enter Mary who joins Martha and Sherlock)*

Sherlock: Hello Mary, my name is Sherlock Holmes and your sister has been telling me about her conversation with Jesus after He had arrived in Bethany. What did you say to Jesus when you saw him?

Mary: I told him that if he had been here my brother wouldn't have died.

Sherlock: And what did Jesus say to you?

Mary: Jesus cried. He was very sad because Lazarus was a good friend of his. We then took Jesus to the tomb to show him where Lazarus had been laid.

Sherlock: So what happened next?

Mary: Jesus said: *"Take the stone away"*

Martha: I told Jesus that there would be a very bad smell if they removed the stone as Lazarus' body had been in there for four days. But Jesus insisted that the stone was removed.

Sherlock: And was there a bad smell?

Martha: No there wasn't. It was really strange.

Mary: Jesus prayed and then said in a very loud voice: *"Lazarus come out!"*

Sherlock: So what happened?

Martha: Lazarus walked out of the tomb.

Sherlock: Really? Are you sure?

Mary: Yes I am totally sure. Lazarus walked out of the tomb with his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen and with a cloth around his face.

Sherlock: He must have been a scarey sight!

Martha: He was and Jesus told us to take off his grave clothes, which we did.

Sherlock: So Lazarus was dead but he is alive now.

Mary: He is and look here he is.

*(Enter Lazarus).*

Sherlock: Hello Lazarus, my name is Sherlock Holmes. I have been hearing how Jesus raised you to life after you had been dead for four days.

Lazarus: Amazing isn't it? I bet you don't come across that every day!

Sherlock: I don't. Thank you all so much for answering my questions.

*(Exit Lazarus, Martha and Mary)*

Another mystery solved by the great Sherlock Holmes. Lazarus was dead but now he has been raised to life by the man Jesus, whom Martha believes is the Son of God. This story is not fake news but true.



Time now for me to move on to my next case.....I hear that there are groups who want to kill Jesus, but that surely must be fake news. Time to investigate.

*(Exit Sherlock)*