

A scripture translation for reading aloud

Where other translations are offered primarily as study texts, or to be read alone at home, the SSRA translation is offered specifically for reading aloud:

- to be easy on the eye, and on the voice, for the reader - so that the reader can read with confidence;
- and to be easy on the ear, for the hearer - so that the hearer can follow the reading, and indeed be drawn in by the reading, without needing a printed text, even on first hearing.

Each modern bible translation was begun to address a specific need. Some were commissioned by denominations or publishers; others began almost by accident - as when Anglican clergyman JB Phillips, in the 1940s, needed a bible his young people could read (eventually producing the JB Phillips New Testament), or when Kenneth Taylor began paraphrasing short sections of Saint Paul for his young family's daily devotions (eventually producing The Living Bible). Others have followed: The Good News Bible, The Jerusalem Bible, The New International Version and more.

SSRA was begun specifically for reading aloud in the ordinary local church on an ordinary Sunday morning, so that any reader could read with confidence, and so that the public reading of scripture could once again be a highlight of every service for everyone present. It is now offered to the wider church: the readings for Year A have been published for 2023; Year B and Year C are in the final stages of preparation for 2024 and 2025.

One distinctive feature of the SSRA translation is the occasional rearrangement of verses within a reading: Saint Paul, in particular, often announces his conclusion first, and then sets out his argument, whereas it is more natural, to the modern western ear - and more memorable - to hear the conclusion at the end.

As with any modern translation, a preacher may wish to refer to a more literal study translation (or indeed the original Hebrew or Greek) when making a word-by-word or line-by-line analysis of the text.