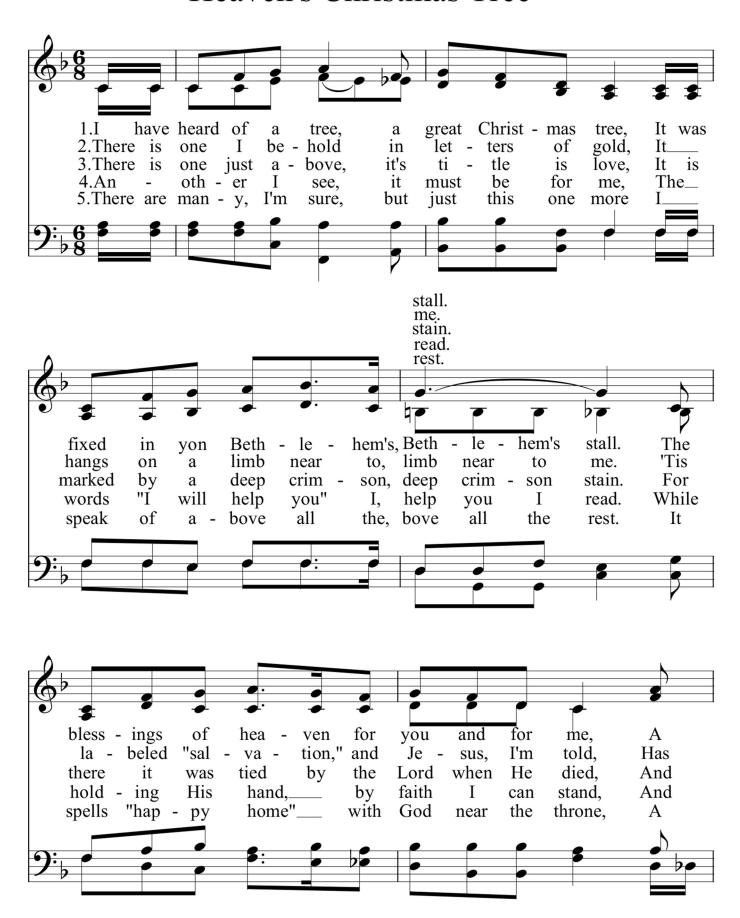
Heaven's Christmas Tree



WORDS: Charles A. Tindley, 1851-1933 MUSIC: Charles A. Tindley, 1851-1933 HEAVEN'S CHRISTMAS TREE 11.9.11.7 with refrain



Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933) was the son of slave parents who taught himself to read while a janitor at Philadelphia's Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church. He took night classes and correspondence courses and was ordained a Methodist minister. In 1902 he was appointed the pastor of Calvary Methodist Church where he served with great success and distinction. It was rebuilt and despite his protest was named Tindley Temple Methodist Church, and grew to a congregation of over 7,000 African Americans, Europeans, Jews, and Hispanics. He has five hymns in *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989). The Civil Rights anthem, "We Shall Overcome," was based on his song, "Till Overcome Someday." "Heaven's Christmas Tree" has never appeared in a Methodist hymnal.